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JULY 31, 2022

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NEARBY

Reconsider proposal on grasslands, says HC

BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife to decide afresh the proposal submitted by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru region, for declaring Hessarghatta Grasslands as 'Greater Hessarghatta Conservation Reserve' area.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

COVID-19: Active cases breach 10,000 mark

BENGALURU

With 1,886 new infections reported in the State on Saturday, active COVID-19 cases again breached the 10,000 mark after a gap of over five months.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

BJP fields Chinchansur for Council byelection

KALABURAGI

The BJP on Saturday announced Baburao Chinchansur as its candidate for the byelection to be held to fill the seat vacated by C.M. Ibrahim in the Legislative Council.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 5

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Koshyari under attack for 'insulting Marathis'

Governor said Rajasthani, Gujarati money props up Mumbai

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

Several parties in Maharashtra on Saturday came out against a statement of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari that Mumbai would not remain the financial capital of the country if people belonging to the Rajasthani and Gujarati communities decide to leave.

His remark drew criticism from several party leaders in the State, with former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray saying it was time to "show him the famous Kolhapuri *chappal*", and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut asking Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to condemn the remark.

At the inauguration ceremony of a chowk named after the late Shantidevi Champalalji Kothari on J.P. Road, Andheri, on Friday, Mr. Koshyari said, "I often tell people here that in Maharashtra, especially in Thane and Mumbai, if you ask Gujaratis and Rajasthanis to leave, no money will be left here. Mumbai will no longer be the financial capital of the country." He said the Rajasthani, Marwari and Gujarati communities were not only good at business but also at philanthropy.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Raut took to Twitter to say in Marathi, "Soon after the BJP-sponsored Chief Minister came to power, the Marathi man is getting insulted."

"In short, Maharashtra and Marathi people are beggars.. Even Morarji Desai did not insult 105 Marathi martyrs like this. Chief Minister Shinde... are you listening? If you have a shred of self-respect, first ask for the Governor's resignation," he added.

Workers of the Nationalist Congress Party protesting against the Governor's remark, in Mumbai on Saturday. • PTI

Uddhav seeks apology

At a press conference, Mr. Thackeray demanded an apology from the Governor. "He has attempted to divide the Hindus and Mumbai with these lowly comments. Time has come to send him back home." "The Governor has stayed in Maharashtra for three years and has not only insulted and dishonoured his position but also the people of Maharashtra by doing *namakharami* (betrayal)," said the Shiv Sena president. He went on to say, "During the 1992-1993 riots in Mumbai and Thane, the Shiv Sena saved all Hindus and didn't go looking for only Marathis."

Mr. Shinde said the Governor's comment was his personal view. "We don't agree with his remarks," he said.

In the afternoon, Mr. Koshyari's office issued a statement clarifying that he was speaking "only on the contribution made by Gujaratis and Rajasthanis".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Chinese ship set to dock in Sri Lanka

It is arriving for replenishment, says Colombo

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Days after denying reports of the scheduled arrival of a Chinese research vessel, and following India's "clear message" about "carefully monitoring" the development, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence on Saturday confirmed that the vessel had sought clearance to call at the southern Hambantota Port in August.

"The vessel will be in Hambantota from August 11 to 17, mainly for replenishment, including fuel," Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry media spokesman Col. Nalin Herath said.

Reports of the vessel – *Yuan Wang 5* – involved in space and satellite tracking, came to New Delhi's notice earlier this week, when External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi told the weekly media briefing that India "carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests".

Yuan Wang 5, which is involved in space and satellite tracking, will reach the Hambantota port on August 11. • BRISL.ORG

Soon after, China said it hopes that "relevant parties" would refrain from interfering with its "legitimate maritime activities", news agency *Reuters* reported.

Col. Herath said such vessels came periodically from various countries such as India, China, Japan and Australia. "It is nothing unusual."

However, analysts are closely watching the development, given the past tensions between Colombo and New Delhi, especially after Colombo allowed a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine to dock at its port in 2014.

5G telecom services to be rolled out from October: Minister

'Govt. will intervene if prices are high'

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

5G telecom services will be made available from October and the industry would decide on the pricing structure, Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

"As soon as spectrum auction ends, within a few days itself, we will allocate the spectrum. We expect that the rollout will happen starting in October, and within a year or so, we should have a good rollout of 5G in the country," the Minister said at a press conference.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

In case of high pricing of 5G services, the government would intervene and state-owned BSNL, which would roll out 5G "very rapidly", would act as a market balancer, the Minister said.

"On an average in the world, the cost of [5G] telecom services is ₹2,400 [per month], while it is around ₹200 a month in India. Data cost is the lowest in India," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

CET results: 1,71,656 eligible for engineering seats

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

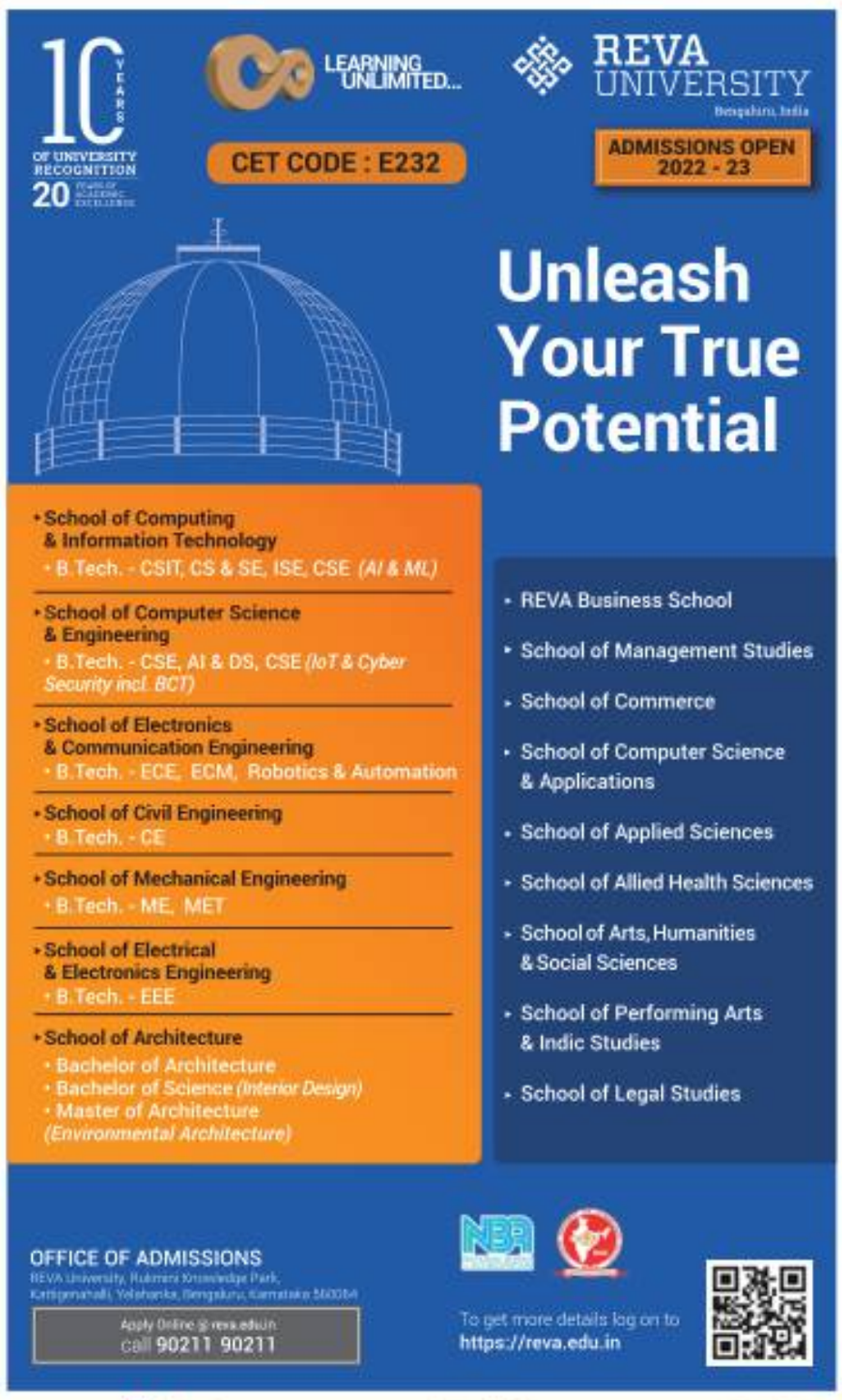
As many as 1,71,656 candidates will be eligible for undergraduate engineering courses this year in the State, with the results of Common Entrance Test (CET), 2022, announced on Saturday.

Apoorv Tandon of National Public School, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, topped the engineering stream with a score of 98.61%, followed by Siddarth Singh and Atmakuri Venkata Madhava Sriram, both from Chaitanya Techno School, Marathahalli, Bengaluru. Apoorv also emerged third topper in B.Pharma with 98.33%.

A majority of toppers this year are from Central Board of Secondary Education-affiliated schools, with 35 out of 45 being from CBSE. Boys dominated the toppers' list.

KEA announced nine top ranks list in Engineering, Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, BSc (Agriculture), BVSc (Veterinary Sciences) and B Pharma (Pharmacy) streams.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 2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ABVP activists lay siege to Araga's home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A group of activists from the ABVP held a violent protest at Home Minister Araga Jnanendra's official residence in Bengaluru on Saturday, demanding a ban on the PFI and its affiliates, who they alleged had a role in the murders of Hindutva activists.

The police, who struggled to bring the situation under control, were later pulled up by the Chief Minister's Office for the security breach. A PSI and a head constable were suspended.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 5

Suspected monkeypox case in city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

An Ethiopian national, who came to Bengaluru from Addis Ababa on July 4 for renal transplant, has been quarantined at a private hospital after he reported symptoms similar to monkeypox. His test reports are awaited.

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar told reporters that there was no need for people to panic as the disease is self-limiting and not fatal.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE4

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Purple revolution

The lavender crop is changing the landscape and improving farm incomes in Kashmir

TEXT BY T PEERZADA ASHIQ & IMAGES BY NISSAR AHMAD

Amid the terraced apple orchards in Bijbehara of south Kashmir, the purple patches of lavender have a buzz these days. The lavender crop is changing not only the landscape of the Kashmir Valley but also the economic gains of farmers. Several traditional low-income crops such as maize are fast making way for lavender fields in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Introduced in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology under the Aroma Mission of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, lavender has found home even in the barren and rocky slopes of Pahalgam and Sonamarg in south and central Kashmir.

At Sirhama in Bijbehara, farmers are busy harvesting purple flowers spread over eight hectares. "Lavender is a high-demand product. Oil extracted from the flowers costs ₹15,000 to ₹20,000 a kg in the market," Maqbool Lone, a farmer, said.

A farmer can extract one quintal of flower biomass from one kanal (0.05 hectares) which yields 1 kg to 1.5 kg of lavender oil. The oil is known for its aroma and medicinal value. For headaches and muscle cramps to depression, it has emerged as a soothing application.

This year, 90,000 additional cuttings have been planted in a nursery in Bijbehara. There are two extraction centres in the Valley already. "It's a purple revolution in the offing," an official of the Agriculture Department said.

In Doda district of the Chenab Valley, Bhaderwah already stands out for its lavender fields. Over 500 farmers are tending to 35.41 hectares of fields, where the maize crop was replaced by lavender.

Fragrant fields: The lavender crop in the Sirhama area of Srinagar. The flower is replacing maize and other crops in Jammu and Kashmir.

Quick pick: Farmers harvesting lavender at Sirhama.

Purple photo: A favourite selfie backdrop.

Harvest by hand: Picking by a clutch.

THE HINDU

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SC AD CSI 37/165 M.Sc., MPH (USA) working in World Bank seeks suitable Alliance from well Qualified, Good Salary, Well Settled Groom, Religion, Caste No Bar. Contact: 98844 39700

ALLIANCE INVITED from respectable family for sunni muslim girl 5ft 5inch 42 unmarried good looking working contact email with details at umtc.shahul@gmail.com or 8054809927

DIVORCEE

MS (USA) girl working as UI/UX designer in USA. Can move within USA or to India. Aged 29 yrs/165cm. Innocent divorcee. Well qualified, well settled family. Contact 9790440193.

DOCTOR

Intercaste Doctor Parents seeks alliance for their only daughter 38yrs Divorcee, Doctor, Working, Associated Professor, affluent, fair, good looking. Only doctor preferred. Caste No Bar. Cont:9443167551

DEVENDRA KULA Vellalar 27, MBBS PVT Hospital, Seeks Doctor Groom from good Family. Ct: 97891 91508 / 63838 60917

HINDU, TAMIL, Mudaliyar, Chennai, Doctor–PG, Pediatrics, Working in reputed Children's Hospital, Chennai, 29 years, seeks alliance from Dr., PG in Eng, MBA, CA. Contact–9444841350.

LOOKING FOR a doctor bridegroom for a doctor girl who has completed M.S. (Ortho) 26 years, 160 cm, doctor family settled in Salem.We seek liberal minded, suitable Hindu match .Ph:9677706235

INVITING POST Graduate Doctor Groom for 29yrs old, Fair, Beautiful MS OG Bride working at Chennai from Pillai community. Ct: 95005 05566.

Hindu Sozhia vellalar Makam/ Simmam fair 25/155 MBBS passed PLAB2 working in UK seeks Doctor groom in UK or willing to go to UK (also Engg groom).Ct:9443142646,9442222401 or sripriya233@gmail.com

HINDI

Kayasth:Namrata Saxena, 14/02/1989, 158 cm, M.Pharmacy Qualified, Fair & Beautiful looking for Groom with Working Professional. Dio. Sushma Saxena, Anil Raj Saxena, Phone No.: 9985453191, 8179142756.

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

KERALITE HINDU Girl, Dy.Director (Doordarshan) Delhi, I I S, DOB 06.04.1988, 5ft 2inch, seeks groom preferably Civil Service officers / Doctors / Engineers / similar group A officers. Contact 8589881011

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM WOMAN, M Phil in Clinical Psychology, MSc in Applied Psychology, 26/150cm, Thrissur District. Working currently in a private clinic at Calicut as Clinical Psychologist. Proposal invited from parents of well educated and progressive minded boy. Nearby districts are preferred. 7907856272

EZHAVA GIRL, 30 years, 160 cm, 50 kg, MD ANAESTHESIA. Poorvattathi Nakshatram. Parents seek good alliance from professionals, well educated boys. Please contact 7356736936.

SUCHAJATHAKAM VISWAKARMA 25/150 Visakam B.Com MBA HCL Settled Coimbatore Seeks Graduate Groom 9566647766

Malayali Hindu Girl (Age 33; 5'4"; Good Looking; MS (US) & MBA (UK)) well placed in Europe, looking for South Indian Boys (Age 33-38) with similar background based in UK/Europe/India. Family well Educated, Financially sound. Phone: 9849077184.

EZHAVA PARENTS retd Judge and retd bank AGM invites proposal for their daughter (34/157) never married, MSc International Relations. Family is well-settled in Bangalore. 7259709520.

RE MARRIAGE

Muslim Community, well Educated (B.Tech, MBA) divorced Muslim female currently working at Bangalore in MNC (9 year old boy at Dubai with his father) 5'3"ht, fair complexion, well behaved, hailing from respectable family. Parents settled in Kochi. Suitable alliance invited for re-marriage from persons settled in India/abroad. Contact with CV at 9388606195

THE HINDU

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MALAYALAM

Groom Wanted

Nair Girl with non transferable job working as an Asst. Prof, Central Govt Research Institute, Bangalore

Good looking, D O B 15.06.1992, Nakshatra- Mula, Height 164cm, 54kg. She has done her M S, Ph. D and Post Doc abroad. Seeking alliance from similarly qualified and professionally settled boys.

Contact : 75940 00872 94360 08333

HINDU THIYYA 29/156 Doctor Girl MBBS, MD., Anesthesia - AIIMS seeks Doctor,Professrl, IAS, IPS 9444114016

NRI

PQM FOR Australia based, govt employee never married, Hindu, Khatri Girl 72 born young-looking 5'3" visiting India. Nkbnama@gmail.com

Padmasali, 33Years, 2nd. 5.1", Fair, BTech, Bank Officer - Contact: 9490000320.

TAMIL

BC AD Divorce, CSI Christian Girl Age 35yrs 168cm B.Com, Seeks Groom in Chennai Pref. Contact: 9566115207

WELL ESTABLISHED Industrial Christian Nadar family invites marriage proposal for their daughter, well Educated (MBA), Fair, Beautiful, looking after family Establishments. Bridegroom should be well Educated from well to do family age within 35. Parents Contact. 95000 37037.

RC Nadar Girl ME 33/5.7 fair Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Contact / whatsApp 98868 88775

37/165cm, Slim, Charming, Banker in Malaysia seeks NRI Tamil Catholic groom.mail:sacrament295@gmail.com

DOCTOR FAMILY seeks Groom for his Daughter, Studying LLM Masters in USA. AD, Christian, 26 Years, SOEL, Advocate. WhatsApp: 9790774718.

CSI CHRISTIAN Adi–Dravidar 29/165 graduate looking for 30–33/170 working Christian groom in chennai Contact: 9361955235

Muslim Rowther born1995 MBA 160 working Govt. Bank seeks suitable groom. Ct : 88701 73563.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

TAMIL MUSLIM, 23, Fair, B.Tech seeks suitable Educated Employed Groom from Decent family. Contact: 94434 09444, 94866 67999

TAMIL MUSLIM Rowther 22/ M.Sc / Fair, Well Settled Family in Chennai Native: Kumbakonam Req suitable groom. Mail: shameermuhammed893@gmail.com

SEEKING 40–45 aged educated Muslim groom with permanent income & willing to settle with Muslim, Govt. servant bride aged 40.Ct: 9788634884

AD 27/162 BHMS Doctor Working seeks Tamil–cultured Well–Educated Settled Dr./Engr/Senior Officer in State/Central Govt./Bank, Groom with Age 30 & Below. 9444220872

AGE:23,HEIGHT:5'3",B.E., WORKING in an MNC in Chennai looking for a suitable Groom in SC Caste. Call:9444283352/044–22241557

HINDU SC –Adi Dravida, Female, Age– 29, BE MBA, Working in Accenture, Ph – 9444391091.

AFFLUENT MUDALIAR parents from Bangalore seek alliance for their only daughter 27yrs,175cm,Engineer (CS)from well settled grooms employed in civil services (IAS/IFS/IRS),Class I State or Central govt officers also can contact. Caste no bar.Please contact:9741589507

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR SC, CNB 38/1984 MA,PVT Bank,Ashwini, Good looking. Chennai,1st Marriage only 9500017884

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

HINDU NADAR 27, MBBS, Bharani Masham, Suddha Jathagam, Seeks Good looking Doctor. Ct:9965252680.

MUDALIAR: 25 /V.Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MS, Doctor, Chennai, Having own Hospital, Elite Family, Seeks Groom – Doctor / Business – 8925019776

TAMIL VISWAKARMA / 39 / 150 Fair Thiruvonam / Rich / ME seeks suitable Same Caste Groom. 9486320882

HINDU NADAR 29, 168, BE/MS Australia Inc 30000/– Divorcee Seeks Suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

TAMIL

VANNIYER KULA Chithiryar MBA Age 31 Menam Uthiradhi Working in Pvt Bank Chennai Rs.35k/PM ct. 7200000601

NAIDU BALIJA/GAVARA, Avittam 28/160, Chartered Accountant, MNC, Chennai, Seeks professionally qualified Groom from Good family. Contact: 9498024683 / 8939845735

INTERCASTE PARENTS (SC/MBC) 31/167 BE MBA SWE Swathi Chennai seek good family background groom 9444053203

HINDU NADAR Sister Girls, age 28 / 23, Ht 167/167cms, M.E. Asst Prof / B.E (I.T), Upper middle class. Seeks Upper middle class, equally qualified boys of age below 30 in job or business.Marriage both at a stage. Contact : 96285 15511

HIGHLY QUALIFIED & well Employed Vanniyar Groom for PG Eng Lit., B.Ed Employed 25 Thiruvonam CV & horoscope to 74486 75517

DKV 28/167 Fair BE. TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu/CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er.Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143638

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar 31 B.E, M.Tech, PhD. Seeks educated Profl groom. 8760883559/8973345370

ILLATHU PILLAI, 29/127, Ayilyam, Well Settled Doctor(PG) Servicing in TN Govt seeks suitable Groom. Caste No Bar. 94866 08844, 94961 02205

25, 165, B.Tech Employed In Tcs Veg Seeks Alliance From Tamil / Malayalam/ Iyer/ Namboodhiri / Varma Contact 9443270479

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M.S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent, seeks settled groom CNB. 9489935653

✔ **MUDALIAR: 25/**160, V.Fair & Beautiful, B.E,M.S(USA), Software Eng, Amazon, USA,600000 PM, Elite Family, Seeks Groom – Abroad /Doctor / Business – 7305810258

39/ GOVT doctor/pallar/innocent divorcee seeks suitable groom ct-9787016244..91598 60877

SC 29/ Rohini, Rishabam B.E. MBA IT Chennai Fair Seeks Well qualified IT/ Professionals, age below 33. Ct: 8056105645/ 7358315070

ADIDRAVIDAR 34, Rohini, B. Tech, PSU–Employee, Chennai, 50,000pm, Widow, lost her husband in Covid, having boy 7 yrs old. Seeks suitable Similar Alliance, Caste No Bar. 9443307660 Mail: gane1972madras@gmail.com

TAMILIAN 168 cm, 30yrs working in corporate Seeks Suitable South Indian bridegroom. Contact:9444186160

BRAHMIN IYENGAR Srivathsam, Bharani 26 yrs BE MNC IT Chennai seeks unmarried Iyengar boy from Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad (5yrs age difference).Contact: 9840013155

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30 - 35yrs- Entrepreneurs Doctors professionals for Hindu fair good looking IRS bride (mutually divorced) 31/165cms from affluent family presently working as Deputy commissioner Customs/ Chennai

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Pillai NV Hindu 45 MCA 45+ 5'5" (29-10-1976) Officer (Public Sector Bank) Star - Uthiradam Physically Handicapped (left leg polio attack) caste no bar seeks educated well employed bridegroom

Contact :- 94868 28754 73393 75133

TAMIL

AGAMUDAYAR, 28 / Fair B.Tech,M.S Apple, works in Seattle - USA seeks USA Employed Groom.Ct:9444123278

DOCTORS Parents - Pillai 25yrs B.E, MS (Data Science) Australia, seeks grooms from Affluent family from India (or) Abroad. CNB. +91 9894697977.

TELUGU

NAIDU (CNB | : 26/168, B.E, MBA, Fair & Beautiful, Business Family, Very Rich, Chennai – Seeks Groom Business / Engineer – 8939012419

BALIJA NAIDU magam 46 age MCA, divorcee without issue Manager Amazon USA, green card holder. Seeks groom working in USA, decent family, Subsect no bar Ct: 9884032342, 9047225719, ksivaja@yahoo.com

BDS DOCTOR, Balija Naidu, 33 years, Jyeshta Nakshatra, rich family wanted Doctor / Government officer / Software Engineer, India/ abroad. Contact Phone. No.: 9246940988, 9848091897

NAIDU BORN August 1990 165cm Ph.D Research scholar smart medium complexion seeks well educated & well settled groom in India from decent background born not earlier than 1987 (Below 35yrs) call:9790906109

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

AFFLUENT CULTURED catholic family of high repute seeks alliance for their accomplished son 35 years post graduate IIM in good post unmarried ht 173 cm well settled an educated bride below 31 years from well established family willing to settle in Bengaluru. 9739048634. email: josephajayk@gmail.com

MUSLIM (R) Male 50 Educated Middle class seeks Life Partner home maker +91 6361828805

GRADUATED FROM Wisconsin (US) and currently working in Bangalore for a fortune 50 company. 1996 born, 6ft 4inch, well built, Vadakalai, Srivatsa gothram, Pooram nakshatram. Upper middle-class family with moderate values. Father is from Tamil Ndu and Mother is from Telangana. Both parents are working at a senior position in private firms in Gurgaon. Tirupirichi@gmail.com. +91 7305229651

UPPER MIDDLECLASS Widower 66,Settld Chennai No Children Seek Life Partner Caste Religion NoBar 9840106847

DIVORCEE

BRIDES WANTED

Iyer, Bharadwajam, Makam, middle class, divorcee, No child, 35/178, B.E., MBA. Clean habits, Canadian PR/Citizen, Manager in HCL, Canada. CAD 1,46,000 Groom in Chennai from 22nd Aug to 20th Sep 2022. Sect / Sub-Sect no bar

Ct: 94441-79125

FINANCE / BANKING

QUALIFIED ALLIANCE for handsome boy, IIT, working in Bank of America, New York City, USA, salary $220,000 pa. DOB 13/09/1991 10.50am Chandigarh, 5ft 9inch, caste no bar. Father retired, mother principal in govt college, Punjab. Tushargupta1991@gmail.com

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BRAHMIN, 31, 180 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a CEO. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated match from the Brahmin Iyer/Iyengar community. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 28, 178 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in the USA. Father is a Retired CA. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448343

SAIVA PILLAI/CASTE NO BAR, 32, 180 cms, Software Professional, B.Tech. Lives in Singapore. Father is a Doctor. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated match. Contact: 6366448344

SAIVA PILLAI, 29, 170 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Doctor. Looking for a match from the Pillai community, well-placed and well-settled family. Contact: 6366448344

KAMMA NAIDU, 26, 178 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Doctor who owns a Hospital at Coimbatore. Looking for a suitable Doctor match. Contact: 6366448345

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 29, 165 cms, Business Consultant, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is an IT consultant. Mother is an Entrepreneur. Looking for a well-educated match from a similar community. Contact: 6366448343

SOZHIYA VELLALAR, 23, 160 cms, IT Professional, MS. Lives in Boston. Father is a Professional. The family is well-settled. Looking for a well-educated PR or Green card holder or US Citizen match. Contact: 6366448345

VELLALAR/CASTE NO BAR, 30, 160 cms, Finance & Accounts Professional, B.Com. Lives in Chennai. Father is an Entrepreneur. Looking for a well-educated match. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU/CASTE NO BAR, 22, 160 cms, Not Working, MSc. Lives in the USA. Father is an Entrepreneur. Looking for a match from a well-settled family in the USA. Contact: 6366448344

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Pursuing Masters from a Premier Institute. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Reputed Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match form the same community. Contact: 6366448346

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TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU - 24 Yrs /154 cm B.E, Rohini / Rishabam, Fair, TCS, Chennai seeks Chennai groom. Ct. 94864 34470.

NAIDU 26/172, Beautiful,MBBS,UPSC Passed, Father Businessman, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

✔ **Well to** do Family Settled in Hyderabad Looking for Suitable Groom for our Daughter, Working in MNC, Fair/ 5'5"/ 24 Years / Telugu/ Naidu. Please Reply : kmsidu.25@gmail.com

BRAHMIN– 28Y /158cm, fair, IIT, IIFT–MBA,Bharadwaj ghotram.Seeks well qualified & well settled Brahmin. Ph:9849113415

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

KAMMA NAIDU

25, FAIR, B.ARCH, GOLD MEDALIST Bride sibling studying MS in Illinois University, USA. WELL SETTLED FAMILY SEEKS GROOM from Australia, Canada, US or local AGE 25-28, WELL SETTLED

98410 24677, 98405 36306

BALIJA NAIDU, 50yrs, Widower, Two daughters married seeks suitable Life Partner Caste No Bar. Ct: 7395925454

COSMOPOLITAN

TAMIL BRAHMIN 47 double masters engg anslyst usa working Canadian citizen divorced no issues CT 9488761825

MD (SS) doctor– Hindu–Tamil (30 yrs, 165 cm, v.fair, hastham) needs a v.fair, slim, tall, well qualified non–medico or MD–MS bride below 28 yrs from cultured upper caste families: Parents–9342529547

KANNADA

Kannada Devanga Chettiar Boy, Fair, 34/5'3", MBA (IIM Bangalore), Working in MNC in Bangalore, 50 LPA, Caste: No Bar. Contact: 9677562027.

MALAYALAM

SUDDHA Jadagam handsome Nair 30/167 Coimbatore settled. Pvt Job in Chennai, Seeks Employed Malayalam/ Tamil Bride. CT: 9488717653.

COIMBATORE NAIR family groom 36/183 chadhayam no dhosam clean habits BOSCH seeks suitable malayalam bride CNB. +2 to any degree, homely bride also accepted. CT 96779 16391 & WUP: 99524 86996.

ENGINEER

HINDU NADAR Industrialist, Mumbai Based, B.Tech, 28,180cmseeks Engineer Bride from Good Family 9326750083

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MARATHI

MARATHI CHRISTIAN BRIDE WANTED

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Contact: 98423 42525

NRI

BROTHERS, BOYS engineers affluent, MTech,MS, Sweden, 182, Uthiradam, Mprof, UK,176, Avittam, Hindu Mudaliyar, Pillai also caste no bar,ct. 9884545515

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN AGE 32, 172cm B.Tech MNC 14Lak PA Bangalore Seeks Qualified Girl. Contact: 6379397539

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Age 27 / 177cm / ME, MBA, MS (UK), Suitable Bride. Ph: 8667262565

MBBS GOVT Doctor SC 38Yr Divorcee Seeks suitable Christian bride Doctor/ Any UG/PG 9940558184/ 7806979417

RC TAMIL Bachelor 56 Yrs Working in Central PSU invites proposal from God fearing Soft spoken & Kind natured middle class RC Tamil Catholic Spinster Btwn 48 TO 52 Years. 9080558661 / 9789967685

TIRUNELVELI BASED Parents seek alliance for their Son Tamil, Muslim, 30/178cms, ME, Expecting supportive and preferably Employed/ professional/progressive Bride. Ct: 9443969998

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

HINDU TAMIL 49/163 Own Business Chennai 36K pm 2nd Marriage Seeks Educated Bride Caste No Bar. 9789936239

HINDU AGAMUDAIYAR 5.6 ht/34yrs B.E, (Divorced) MD in Reputed Family Business with a good net worth. Seeks suitable alliance. Caste no bar. Call/Whatsap: 9444385393, 9444929511

SAIVAPILLAI 33/173 Hastham MS Engg Software Engineer in Major MNC Bangalore seeks professionally qualified Bride 8903293576 / 9840299985

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/170 Fair Thiruvonam Rich/ CA/ MNC/ 70,000 seeks same Caste Bride 9486320882

SAIVA PILLAI 26/166, Chithirai, B Tech SW Engineer, Chennai, only son, Seeks educated bride. 9345548703

INTERCASTE NAIR boy Age 36, Legal-Manager, Private Company Chennai, Caste No Bar 9840699500 / 8778856080

✔ **CASTE NO** BAR 36/168 ICP PILLAI (F) CHETTIAR(M) M.TECH SWE MNC Chennai 18 lakhs Aswini star seeks suitable bride 9841151575 /write2ats@gmail.com

CHENNAI BUSINESSMAN 41yrs/MBA Divorced Seeks Bride Below 35Yrs. with Good Family Back Ground. 7200079466

SEIVA PILLAI Qualification B.E, MBA Working At Bangalore Leading MNC Company Monthly Income 1.5Lakhs, Divorce age 37 Seeks Only 1st Marriage Bride. Call : 8072215374/ 8946062412

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR handsome Rishabam Krittika 32/180 MA, BL practising Advocate, High Court own house seeks educated good looking bride. 9940045937/ kanmani.portko@gmail.com

Padmasaliyar, 34 / 167cm Marine Engineer Seeks suitable bride. Preferably BC community, Caste No Bar. Ph : 74020 90971

DKV 33/176, BE, L &T–Chennai. Parents Hindu/RC, Well settled. Seeks Suitable Bride.Caste No Bar. 9884467912

HINDU NADAR, Baskar.C (36) 175cm MBA, 1.5L P/Month including Business and Rent. Suitable Bride from Chennai. Ct: 9382603744

TAMIL

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** 30, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) in Chennai, Annual Income: 12 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same community or any other community. Phone: 9841784047 Email: pingms.anil@gmail.com.

HINDU VALLUVAN, 26/178, BA,BL (Hons) Working as Judicial Magistrate (Civil Judge), 10L/PA, Own House Seeks Prof.Qualified & Govt. Employed Bride. Caste No Bar. 9444242996

HINDU VALLUVAN 31/176, B.E (Mech), M.A (Anth), TNPSC Group 1, R&D Co-ordinator in Vetri IAS Study Circle, Chennai, 60K/pm, Own House Seeks Prof.Qualified & Govt. Employed Bride.Caste No Bar. 9444242996

PSU BANK Manager (Reddiar), Handsome, 34/5.10, Income 1.5 Lacs PM, Seeks Fair and equally placed girl. Caste no bar. Ct: 98404 50655.

SC / Hindu/ 29/189 Cm, Software professional in Australia. Awaits PR. Seeks alliance, willing to relocate to Australia. Caste no bar. Parents in Chennai. Contact: 9884223468

MUDALIAR 29, BE/MS, 23Lacs PA, 178cm, Smartlook,well Settled Family Seeks Bride, CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

PILLAI (SUB Caste Ok) 32, Bharani star, DCE, Work in Qatar. Salary 18L P.A.,Ct: 9442456941 / 7305460763.

AGAMUDAIYA MUDALIYAR, divorce, 40, Mirugasiridam, 170cm, Slim, Ph.D, Govt Job, 1.10 lakh p/m, 9894042460

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA PG Doctor Chennai 29/153Rohini–2 Rishabam seeks same caste Doctor BrideSend Profile–Horoscope: vpsarathy1@gmail.com9869041169

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 28/167 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 8248195168, 8667380725

5.9,28YRS,B.TECH,MS(NEW ZEALAND), FAIR handsome now working in MNC chennai seeks suitable bride.CNB ct–7010082445,7010224142

GAVARA NAIDU well Edu fmly seeks SM4 fair and hsome Engr son 27/ 5'10", wrkng SI(Tech) cybercrime stn Trichy, , contact with BHP: Cont: 9443768130

HINDU SOURASHTRA, Madurai 35yrs/ 6 ft, M.E (IT), SWE, Bengaluru, 15 L PA seeks suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. 99436 42672

VEERASAIVAM – LINGAYATH Avittam 42yrs 1st Marriage, Govt. Job, 4.5 LPA Seeks Veg Girl only. 9655689291, 6381104060.

TAMIL HINDU, 38yrs, Divorcee, Self Employed Professional (Semi Qualified CA) owns self Residential House, living with Parents seeks suitable Bride. Ct: madurairadha@gmail.com, 97893 05281.

CNB, NADAR, 1980/165, M.A.B.L., HC, Advocate, Rich only son seeks Dr, Engg, Employed Bride. 94888 88819

HINDU NADAR, 33, SWE, 48L P.A, Bangalore employed, onsite Dubai, Madurai settled educated family seeks Bride. Ct: 94438 60983, 94429 84922

5T6"2Handsome Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Wkg Top MNC in Hyderabad Salary 55 to 60 lacs seeks Engineer/ Doctor 5 4" Contact: 7382620365.

SMARTHA BRAHMIN Telugu Bachelor 44/ 175 Koundinya Chithirai B.Tech M.E Sr DGM Seeks Brahmin Bride Ct. lsbalaji94@yahoo.com 9445006191

TAMIL

VADAKALAI IYENGAR Boy, Punarpoosam 5 ft 6 inch, Bharatwaja Gothram, 1979, never married, MNC Chennai, MS. I.T, 24 Lacs pa seeks never married Brides. Cont with BHP Whatsapp: 7299704899, 9443092289.

BRAHMIN,40, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, Seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ph: 9487851429

✔ **Iyer Girl, Bharadwajam, 1988 born, Mrigasheersham Star, PhD, doing Post-Doctoral Work in Germany. Looking for well Qualified Boy, well settled in USA/Europe/UK. Please Contact: +91 638 334 7312.**

B.COM, M.SC, 38 (IT), Lnd Ind, 45k Temple charge,Homely,wrking, simple marriage Ct: 9150052711, 7358615054

NAIDU 31/164cm ME Asst. Professor Chennai-Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee - no issue- Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar pref Contact: 94456 89306 / 94430 52596

Seeks Unmarried 38-42yrs Bride for 47yrs US Citizen, never married before, spiritual, liberal family 7395881522, padmapalanisamy@gmail.com.

MARUTHUVAR B.E, 27yrs/175, Fair & Handsome 6 Lakhs PA seeks suitable Working Bride. Ct: 9445222482

TELUGU

NAIDU 27/180, B.Tech MS, Poorvabhi, working as Research Engineer in Sweden, contact 9566682220

VISWAKARMA 29 /175 B.Tech cnrl Govt job bngr 16 LPA seeks bride frm nellore. Ct:8310786657

REDDY 38YRS/1984 Born / 5.9 Inches / Working at DXC Technology Bangalore (9 Lakhs Per Annum)/ Legally Divorced (Null & Void– No Issues) / Cast No Bar (FC, BC or MBC) / Avitam 2nd Paatham, Makara Rasi 9791044451

NAIDU 31/180,HANDSOME,MBBS,MS,10500 00.PA, Father Businessman, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

URDU

SMU 28/179 ME handsome PG Engineer MNC, Europe seeks PG Medical/ Engineer bride from Reputed Religious good family Mail: sshaf561@gmail.com

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR, Elite Family Boy– Sep 89/170, Mirugasirisham, PG, Working MNC Only Son Seeks PG & Doctor Bride, Girl – Sep 91/165, Mirugasirisham, PG, Working HR MNC Seeks MS / M.Tech Groom. 9176780777

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NANDALIKE Mahesh Subbanna Kudva R/O A213, Patels Callisto, Talakaveri Lyt, Amruthahalli Mn Rd, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore, have changed my minor son's name from Hriday Mahesh Kudva to Nandalike Hriday Mahesh Kudva vide affidavit dated 04–May–2022 sworn before Notary Krishnanand Shenoy

CBSE students grab most top ranks in CET 2022-23

Of the 45 toppers across five streams, 35 are CBSE students

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A majority of toppers in the Common Entrance Test (CET) 2022-23, the results of which were announced on Saturday, are Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board students. Of the list of 45 toppers across five streams Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) announced on Saturday, 35 are CBSE students.

KEA has announced the top nine rank holders in five streams - Engineering, Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences (BNYS), B.Sc (Agriculture), B.V.Sc (Veterinary Science) and B-Pharma (Pharmacy). They have withheld the name of the student who secured the 10th rank in all the five streams, an overseas student, for technical reasons.

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan said both CBSE and State syllabus students were prescribed the same textbooks prepared by National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for Class XII and II Pre-University, respectively, and CBSE students did not have an edge over the State syllabus students. He said the trends in toppers often vary year to year and this year, topper's lists were dominated by boys, unlike in previous years.

Boys won all the top nine ranks in Engineering, B.Sc (Agriculture), and B-Pharma (Pharmacy) streams and two girls made it to the toppers list in Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences and B.V.Sc (Veterinary Science) streams, put together. All nine toppers in the Engineering stream are from Bengaluru.

Due to the pandemic, Class XII and II PU exams were not held and everyone was passed. However, KEA conducted KCET-2021 successfully and considered only CET marks for the ranking. But, this year marks scored by students in both Class XII or II PU examination and CET examination were considered for the ranking. This year, KEA gave all students 7 grace marks, five for Mathematics and one each for Chemistry and Physics.

Document verification from August 5

Verification of documents, of students appearing for CET counselling, will be done online for the first time from August 5. The KEA has made arrangements to obtain certificates of income, caste, education certificate, certificate of attendance in rural area, language minority certificate, etc., online from the concerned competent authorities. Apart from CBSE and ICSE, KEA will also get the marksheets of those who have done Class XII online and initiate the seat allotment process.

However, documents of only 10% of the students who fall under defense, NCC, sports, disabled quotas will be physically verified. CET counselling will start in the first week of September. After the result of the NEET, the admission process for medical, dental, ayurvedic and homeopathy courses will begin.

Withheld results

If the result is withheld or not announced for want II PUC or Class XII marks card or proof of date of birth of any candidate, such candidates have to submit the photocopy of the said document to KEA, through the email: keauthority-ka@nic.in/fax/ in person. Thereafter, KEA will publish the result of that particular candidates.

Twin brothers top BNYS stream

Twin brothers Vrajesh Veenadhar Shetty and Vrishan Veenadhar Shetty from Udupi have got the 2nd and 5th rank in the Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences stream.

Both studied in Madhava Kripa English School (CBSE), Manipal, Udupi. Both want to join the MBBS course, in AIIMS, Delhi. Vrajesh, said, "I was very surprised when I received my results. It felt really amazing. For three years I have been practicing for NEET and wrote the KCET. My main aim is to become a doctor. I am looking forward to the NEET result and am planning to join AIIMS, Delhi. I hope I will get a place there."

Vrishan said, "I'm happy about the results and I want to pursue MBBS in my dream institution like AIIMS, Delhi. I was fully dedicated to studying for two years and NEET coaching by BASE helped me excel in CET."

Toppers speak

Some of the toppers shared their experience of the exam preparation and their plans for the future.

"This is one of the happiest moments of my life. I was also the third topper in COMEDK UGET-2022. The COVID-19 lockdown and online classes helped me a lot in preparing for Class XII and entrance tests like CET. I plan to join a reputed engineering college in the State," said Apoorv Tandon, from the engineering stream.

Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule, of BNYS and B.V.Sc (Veterinary Sciences), said, "It is very unexpected, because I didn't write the exam with any expectations, but it felt great to know I have emerged a topper in two streams. I want to do MBBS and had focused on NEET. I hope I score well there. My dream college would be AIIMS Delhi or JIPMER Pondicherry."

"I have been preparing for JEE (Advanced) and my school helped me a lot, because we had continuous exams and good teachers. I feel very happy and proud. I wish to go to IIT Bombay," said Shishir. R.K., a topper in B-Pharma.

Arjun Ravisankar, from B.Sc (Agriculture Sciences), said, "I expected the top rank in engineering and unfortunately got 36th rank. But I am very surprised and happy that I topped in the Agriculture Sciences stream. I would like to pursue engineering in NITK or any of the IITs."

Apoorv Tandon (Engineering), Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule, (BNYS and B.V.Sc), Shishir R.K. (B-Pharma), and Arjun Ravishankar (B.Sc Agriculture). • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CET 2022 rank holders

Candidate name	%
Engineering	
Apoorv Tandon	98.61
Siddhartha Singh	98.33
Atmakuri Venkata Madh	98.11
Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences	
Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule	99.16
Vrajesh Veenadhar Shetty	96.66
Krishna S.R.	96.66
Vrishan Veenadhar Shetty	96.66
Vishal B	96.11
B Sc (Agriculture)	
Arjun Ravisankar	96.29
Sumeet S Patil	96.29
Sudeep Y.M.	96.12

Candidate name	%
Bachelor of Veterinary Science	
Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule	98.33
Manish S.A.	97.22
Shuba Kaushik	96.66
Krishna S.R.	96.66
Vrishan Veenadhar Shetty	96.66
Vrajesh Veenadhar Shetty	96.66
B Pharma	
Shishir R.K.	98.88
Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule	98.33
Approv Tandon	97.22
Atmakuri Venkata Madhava Sriram	97.22
Manish S.A.	97.22

This year we will verify documents of students online. Our aim is to make it easy for students to submit applications from their homes using technology. We have also upgraded KEA software for this purpose. The helpline has also been upgraded to be able to field thousands of calls at once.

C.N. ASHWATH NARAYAN
Higher Education Minister

FROM PAGE ONE

CET results: 1,71,656 eligible for engineering seats

The KEA withheld the result of one overseas student, who got 10th rank in all the streams, citing technical reasons.

Of the 2,10,829 candidates who appeared for CET this year, 1,71,656 are eligible to apply for Engineering and Technology courses, 1,39,968 for BSc Agriculture, 1,42,750 for Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, 1,42,820 for Veterinary Sciences, and 1,74,568 for B Pharma, Pharma D courses.

Hrishikesh Nagabhushan Gangule, a student of National Centre for Excellence, Bengaluru, topped the rank list for BNYS with 99.16% as well as BVSc with 98.33%) and second in B Pharma with 98.33%.

Arjun Ravishankar, from HAL Public School, Bengaluru, topped BSc (Agriculture) with 96.29%. Shishir R.K. (98.88%) from Narayana E-Techno School, Bengaluru, is the topper in B Pharma and fourth topper in Engineering stream. The results were declared by Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

Repeater students protest over Class XII, II PUC 2021 marks not being counted

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Hundreds of students and parents staged a protest in front of Karnaktaka Examinations Authority (KEA) and Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan's official residence in Malleswaram after the announcement of KCET-2022 result on Saturday. The protesters were those who had rejected last year's KCET results and appeared for KCET-2022.

They were protesting against KEA considering only their KCET marks and not their Class XII or II PUC marks of 2021, resulting in poor ranks.

Around 24,000 candidates had rejected the KCET results of 2021 and appeared for KCET this year. After the results were announced on Saturday, many realised that their rank had, in fact, dropeed compared to last year.

One of them said, "There was no instruction from KEA in the notification that only KCET marks will be considered for repeaters. If that was the case, we also would have written the Class XII exams again."

However, Ramya S., Executive Director, KEA, said, "If we consider their PUC marks from last year and award ranks, the entire system will get disturbed."

While Mr. Narayan promised to discuss the issue with KEA officials, the authority released a note late on Saturday stating, "As per the government order, the qualifying marks of 2021 students was not considered for CET ranking for the academic year 2021-22 and is not considered for 2022-23 as well."

IN BRIEF

Three held for murder

BENGALURU

The West Division Police arrested three labourers from Tamil Nadu on the run after killing their friend in City Market, within 24 hours of the murder, early on Thursday. The deceased, Prashanth, a flower vendor was at the market to get flowers at night and had a party with the accused who were labourers. Prashanth demanded a ₹200 loan from them, which they refused. He smashed a beer bottle on one of the accused. They allegedly beat him up, stabbed him and fled.They were tracked down at Tandrampattu in Thiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu and booked for murder.

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2	Amaravathi Colony Junction - Kotturu Section : Protection works for vulnerable cutting between Km. 101/650-102/350 for both sides with Boulder netting Gabions, Shortcrete, Guniting, RCC Toe wall and Drain between Harapanahalli - Teligi Stations.	Rs. 2,34,66,685/-
3	Chikjajur - Rayadurga Section : Protection works for vulnerable cutting between Km. 61/500 - 62/300 for both sides with Boulder netting, Gabions, Shortcrete, Guniting, RCC Toe wall and Drain between Balenahalli - Challakere Stations.	Rs. 2,21,69,459/-
4	Chikjajur - Rayadurga Section : Protection works for vulnerable cutting between Km. 40/000 to 41/100 for both sides with Boulder netting, Gabions, Shortcrete, Guniting, RCC Toe wall and Drain between Chitradurga - Balenahalli Stations.	Rs. 2,23,76,162/-
5	Sub Work - I : Mysuru Improvements to various staff amenities old officers Bungalows 9 Nos. (10/A, 10/B, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25) in VRC Colony, Mysuru. Sub Work - II : Repair work for conversion of old station building at Tiptur to SSE/P.Way/Office/Tiptur.	Rs. 1,05,87,748/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 22-08-2022

For details log on: www.imps.gov.in

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P.(W)273/NAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

RAMANI DORASWAMY

wife of late D. Ravishankar
much loved sister, sister-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, friend, teacher and guide
passed away on 26 July 2022 in Bristol, UK
Deeply missed by all

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Dr.A.Ganesan, M.A. Phd.,
Former Vice Principal
Saraswathi Narayanan College, Madurai.

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MARUTI SUZUKI

DEATH

Gomathi Sankaran (86 yrs.)
W/O Kallidaikurichi EkRmK Sankaran
Attained Shivaloka Prapthi on 29 July '22 in Mumbai
Grieved by:
Hariharan & Maya
Raman & Sheela
Rajesh Garga & Gayathri
Abhishek, Neha,
Anshuman, Ankitha & Aadi
Mb: 9819857971 / 9137059643

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client/s have negotiated to purchase the SCHEDULE PROPERTY from its owner **Smt. S. MANJULA,** Aged about 24 years, D/o. Sri.N.S.Shivanna & Smt.Sunandamma, W/o. Sri.H.S.Anil Kumar, Grand Daughter of Late Sri.Shamanna & Late Smt.Munithayamma, Residing at: Hasigala Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, based on her representations that she is the true and absolute owner of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY she having acquired the same by virtue of the Registered Release Deed dated 23.02.2017, Registered as Document No.BDH-1-04501/2016-17, of Book-1, Stored in CD No.BDHD155, Registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar Bidarahalli, Bangalore, executed by her father Sri.N.S.Shivanna S/o.Late Sri.Shamanna and that subsequently the said Release Deed was confirmed by (1) Smt.Bhagyamma, D/o. Late Sri.Shamanna & Late Smt.Munithayamma, W/o. Sri.Pudya Shankarappa (2) Sri.H.S.Anil Kumar, Grand Son of Late Sri.Shamanna & Late Smt. Munithayamma, S/o. Sri.Pudya Shankarappa & Smt.Bhagyamma, Both being the residents of Hasigala Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District by executing the Registered Confiramtion Deed dated 16.08.2019, Registered as Document No.KRI-1-04491/2019-20, of Book-1, Stored in CD No.KRID800, Registered in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore and that all the revenue records are mutated to her name in the records of the concerned revenue authorities vide **MRH26/2017-18** and that she and her family members have not entered into any manner of transactions in respect of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY and that it is free from all manner of Liens, Charges, Court litigations, minor claims or any manner of encumbrances.

Any person/s claiming any manner of right, title or interest in the SCHEDULE PROPERTY shall lodge their claim in writing with supporting documents within 15 days, after the publication of this notice, to the undersigned, failing which, my client/s shall proceed with the transaction to acquire the SCHEDULE PROPERTY from the aforesaid owners and their family members.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immoveable Property being Lands in **Survey No. 42/2, of Mandur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, Now Bangalore East Taluk,** in respect of **27 Guntas (Out of 1 Acre excluding 1 Gunta of Kharab)** and bounded on the: **East by :** Lands in Sy No.43; **West by:** Lands in Sy No.42/1; **North by:**Lands in same Sy No.42/2, belonging to Smt.S. Mamatha; **South by :** Government Canal.

VELLANKI RAVI, Advocate
321, 1st Floor, C.M.H. Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038. Tel: 9844121658 (Mob)

Date : 30-07-2022
Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that Sri.Jithesh Chopra, residing at #401, 4th floor, Nuthan Apartment Jain Temple Opposite, Basavanagudi is the owner of the Schedule 'B' Property described infra.

It is noticed that original sale deed dated 13.04.2015, bearing doc no.315/2015-16, in Book-I, C.D.no.CMPD133 executed by Sri.K.Sreeprakash, Smt.Ambuja Sreeprakash & Sri.K.Jayaram in favour of Smt.Sushila Gandhi & Smt.Priyadarshini Gandhi, registered at the office of Senior Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi (Chamarajapete), Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule 'B' Property is lost / misplaced. In this connection, an E-Complaint has been lodged on 29.07.2022 at Bangalore City Police Station, Bangalore, bearing Serial no 2803382.

The finder of the said document is requested to surrender the original sale deed to the undersigned within 10 days from this day, failing which, it shall be deemed that the Sale Deed is irretrievably lost and certified copy of the same shall be obtained from the office of Sub-registrar of Assurances in lieu of lost original for the purpose of records.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Municipal no.5, PID no.50-28-5, measuring East to West : 117 ft., and North to South : 145 ft., totally measuring 16,965 Sq. ft., with a building thereon comprised of ground and first floors measuring about 6,682.475 Sq. ft., situated at Krishna Road, Basavanagudi, Bangaluru and bounded as follows: On the **East by:** Property bearing no.6, **West by:** Property bearing no.4, **North by:** Private property, **South by:** Krishna Road.

Details of Constructions : Super built-up area : 6,682.475 Sq. ft., Roof : R.C.C., Flooring : Red Oxide, Doors and Windows : Jungle Wood. Amenities : Electricity, Water & Sanitation.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

2.2694 % (equivalent to 385 Sq. ft., in land area and 151.65 Sq. ft., in area of the building) of undivided share of right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property.

R.RAJALAKSHMI, Advocate
Nos.519 & 520, III Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Ph: 41247862 & 41224956 D: 30.07.2022

Collective labour: Farmhands harvesting lavender spikes on a farm in Pulwama district, 60 km from Srinagar.

Into the factory: Workers moving harvested lavender to a government plant to extract oil in the Lalmandi area of Srinagar.

Extraction step: Employees lowering dried lavender spikes oil into a vessel for processing at the plant.

On the boiler: Dried lavender spikes are steamed.

Distilled perfume: A worker during the final stages of extracting lavender oil.

Dab on: The bottled product.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUL. 31	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:47
RISE 08:04	SET 20:50
MONDAY, AUG. 01	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:47
RISE 08:52	SET 21:27
TUESDAY, AUG. 02	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:46
RISE 09:40	SET 22:04

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	31	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower is likely.

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THE HINDU
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Reconstruct proposal on Hessarghatta Grasslands, says HC

Court quashed board's January 2021 decision of rejecting CCF's proposal; remits matter back to board

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife to decide afresh the proposal submitted by the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Bengaluru region, for declaring Hessarghatta Grasslands as 'Greater Hessarghatta Conservation Reserve' area.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the Order while disposing of two PIL petitions filed by environmentalist Vijay Nishanth and others.

The petitioners had questioned the legality of the decision, taken by the Board at its 15th meeting on January 19, 2021, rejecting the proposal to declare Hessarghatta Grasslands comprising of 5,010 acres as 'Greater Hessarghatta Grasslands Conserve Reserve'.

FROM THE COURT

'Cavalier manner'

"In our opinion, the Board has passed the order [to reject the proposal] in a cryptic and cavalier manner without advertising to the relevant criteria as prescribed in Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972," the Bench observed. Since the Board's order is "cryptic and suffers from the vice of non-application of mind, the same cannot be sustained in the eyes of the law", the Bench said while quashing the Board's January 19, 2021, decision. The Bench remitted the matter back to the Board to take a fresh decision.

The petitioners had claimed that the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, as the chairperson of the Board, had dropped the proposal without considering the opinions and recommendations of other members, who were experts on the subject.

The petitioners had pointed out that the chairperson had dropped the proposal after S.R. Vishwanath, MLA for Yelahanka constituency, who was a special invitee to the meeting, had opposed the proposal for declaration of 'Greater Hessarghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve' stating such a declaration would come in the way of development works in the area as already there is shortage of government land.

■ The petitioners had pointed out that the chairperson had dropped the proposal after S.R. Vishwanath, MLA for Yelahanka constituency, who was a special invitee to the meeting, had opposed the proposal for declaration of 'Greater Hessarghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve' stating such a declaration would come in the way of development works in the area as already there is shortage of government land.

Reservoirs of biodiversity

The petitioners had argued that the CCF had made the proposal as Hessarghatta lakebed and grasslands are important reservoirs of biodiversity and a refuge for endangered wildlife species, besides being home to over 130 species of birds, mammals, and butterflies.

Kundapur's Gururaja clinches bronze in weightlifting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

P. Gururaja from Vandse in Udupi district clinched Bronze in the Men's 61 kg weight category at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, 2022, on Saturday, consecutively winning the second medal after winning Silver in the 56 kg category at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Gururaja Poojary at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Competing with Canada's Youri Simrad, Gururaja lifted a total of 269 kg (snatch-118 kg; clean jerk-151 kg), one kg more to Mr. Simrad, to clinch the second medal for India in the CWG 2022. Congratulating him, Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said with the medal, Gururaja brings back more glories home. The way he bounced back at the Clean and Jerk round is laudable, Mr. Thakur said in his tweet.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in his tweet said Gururaja made the nation proud with his medal. He is from Kundapura taluk and it is a matter of honour for the State. The whole nation is rejoicing his victory, a result of his sustained hard work and indomitable grit, he said.

Born to truck driver Mahabala Poojari and homemaker Paddu Poojarthi, Gururaja with eight siblings had a tough beginning. His interest came to the fore when he was studying at the government primary school in Vandse, where his talent was encouraged. At Mookambika High School, Kollur, physical education teacher Sukesh Shetty encouraged him in wrestling. Gururaja shifted to weightlifting during his graduation at SDM College, in Ujire, with the guidance of PE Director Rajendra Prasad.

Though he had attempted to join the Army, his height (156 cm) came in the way. However, he got selected as an aircraftsman with the Indian Air Force thereby improving his situation. His household is much better thereafter and now Gururaja intends to build a spacious house at the village.

His elder brother Manohar said he could have won the gold if not for a fever from which he had recovered four days ago.

Active cases breach 10K mark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

With 1,886 new infections reported in the State on Saturday, active COVID-19 cases again breached the 10,000 mark after a gap of over five months.

The number of active cases in the third wave in Karnataka fell below the 50,000 mark on February 11 and further below the 10,000 mark on February 23 after hitting a peak of 3,62,487 cases on January 24. From March 20, active cases fell below 2,000 and were hovering around 1,800 till April 4 when the number further plummeted to 1,500.

Subsequently, active cases started rising but remained within 2,000 till May 30. With new cases also seeing a jump from within 200 till May end to around 2,000 now, active cases are increasing by the day.

As of Saturday, the total number of cases rose to 40,05,671. The day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 5.82% and the weekly TPR touched 5.97%. Of the 1,886 new cases, 1,342 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

Man held for fake number plate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Rajajinagar police on Friday arrested a man for riding his bike with fake number plates to hoodwink the traffic police to evade paying pending traffic fines.

Marigowda, 31, was caught by Head Constable Syed Nawaz, while he was riding his two-wheeler on Koolinagar bridge on Friday morning. Verification of documents found that the original number plate of his bike is KA05 JS 7536 but the accused had altered the last number of the back plate to KA05 JS 7538 to evade paying fine. The vehicle had a pending fine of ₹29,000. The police seized the vehicle and booked a case against him. The Nandini Layout police and remanded him to judicial custody till August 12.

This is the fifth case registered by West Division Traffic regarding fake number plates. The accused in the cases have been arrested and their vehicles seized. Among the five cases reported here, the V.V. Puram and Banashankari police caught a biker during a minor accident and checking the documents to find fake number plates. In the remaining three cases reported in Rajajinagar, Vijaynagar and K.S. Layout, the police caught the bikers with fake plates during random checks.

12-year-old falls to death from second floor of apartment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a 12-year-old boy slipped to his death from the second floor of CVK Meenakshi Apartments, in Kalena Agrahara in Hulimavu on Saturday afternoon. The incident occurred around 1:30 p.m.

Adith

The deceased, Adith, studying in seventh grade in a private school had attended a parent-teacher meeting online with his mother, before venturing out to play. His mother, a techie, reportedly told him to be careful when he stepped out of the house. However, he slipped from the balcony and crashed on the ground. The security guards raised an alarm and rushed him to nearby hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead.

The Hulimavu police verified the CCTV footage of the complex and ruled the incident as an accident. They registered a case of unnatural death and are investigating further .

Adith is the only child of his parents. His father, a real estate consultant, is in Dubai on a business trip.

IN BRIEF

Man killed

BENGALURU

An electrician was stabbed to death over a trivial row in Anepalya in Ashok Nagar police station limits on Friday night. The deceased Syed Irfan, 28, was returning home on foot when he was allegedly confronted by the accused Khasim. An argument ensued following which Khasim stabbed Irfan with a knife on his thigh and escaped. The Ashok Nagar police arrested Khasim on charge of murder.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
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Common Admission Test
CAT 2022

The Indian Institutes of Management will conduct a computer-based Common Admission Test 2022 (CAT 2022) on **November 27, 2022** in **three** sessions. Detailed information on CAT 2022 may be obtained from the CAT website.

CAT website : www.iimcat.ac.in

CAT 2022 is a prerequisite for admission to various Post Graduate and Fellow/Doctorate programmes of IIMs. CAT 2022 scores are allowed to be used by listed non-IIM member institutions. A list of such institutions is provided on the CAT website. IIMs have no role in the selection process of non-IIM institutions.

CAT 2022 ELIGIBILITY

Please refer to the detailed notification on the CAT website. **Applicants should note that mere fulfillment of the minimum eligibility criteria will not ensure consideration for shortlisting by IIMs.**

RESERVATIONS

Refer to the CAT website for information regarding reservation of seats for various categories of applicants. **No change in the category will be entertained after CAT registration. The applicants are advised to pay attention while registering.**

REGISTRATION FEES

₹1150 for SC, ST and PwD category candidates.
₹2300 for all other categories of candidates.
Please note that a candidate needs to pay the registration fees only once, irrespective of the number of institutes he/she is applying for. Fees once paid cannot be refunded under any circumstances.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration opens	: **August 03, 2022 (10:00 am)**
Registration closes	: **September 14, 2022 (5:00 pm)**
Admit card download	: **October 27 - November 27, 2022**
Test date	: **November 27, 2022**
Result declaration	: **Second week of January, 2023 (Tentative)**

TEST CENTRES

CAT will be conducted in test centres spread across around 150 test cities. Candidates will be given the option to select any six test cities in order of their preference.

DISCLAIMER

This advertisement is only intended to be an announcement for CAT 2022. For COVID-19 related updates, detailed information, rules and procedures regarding CAT and the admission process of various IIMs, candidates should visit the CAT website.

Any dispute concerning CAT 2022 would be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent Courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Bangalore only.

IMPORTANT

Candidates must declare and maintain a valid and unique email account and a mobile phone number throughout the selection process.

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TAC for sewage surveillance for early detection of monkeypox

'In Karnataka, to begin with, samples from Bengaluru airport should be tested'

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended wastewater/ sewage surveillance for early detection of monkeypox in the State.

Members of TAC who deliberated on monkeypox at the 177th meeting on July 28 were of the opinion that in the epidemiological context of zero case scenario in the State as of now, it is important to look for the presence of monkeypox virus. "It is recommended to immediately initiate sewage surveillance for detection of the virus in the State," stated the TAC report.

"As per guidelines released by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India, even one case should all be considered as an outbreak and a detailed investigation should be done by the rapid response teams (RRT). Sewage surveillance (detection of monkeypox viral DNA in a routine wastewater monitoring programme) has been done in the U.S. and a similar exercise should be taken up before any case is confirmed in the State," TAC sources told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

"In Karnataka, to begin with, samples from Bengaluru International Airport should be tested as soon as possible as this is the entry point of international arrivals," the sources said. "In this regard, the Infectious Disease Research Foundation in Bengaluru that is entrusted with wastewater/ sewage surveillance for COVID-19, has agreed to undertake this task without any financial commitment to the State. The sewage surveillance will lose its relevance if any confirmed case is reported in the State."

Sewage surveillance has been done in the U.S. and a similar exercise should be taken up before any case is confirmed, says TAC • FILE PHOTO

Training

Based on the successful experience of training for COVID-19, the TAC has also recommended that Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences should soon conduct a training on management of monkeypox for all medical and paramedical personnel. Besides, it has also recommended that all healthcare institutions in the State should comply with the NCDC guidelines on prevention and control of the disease.

On July 23, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared monkeypox as a disease of public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). The WHO has emphasised that the focus for all countries must be engaging and empowering communities of men who have sex with men (MSM) to reduce the risk of infection and onward transmission.

In India, till July 28, four cases have been reported – three from Kerala (international arrivals from Middle East, with one entering via Mangaluru airport) and one from Delhi without any travel history.

Lab yet to get nod

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Although the Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory lab at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute is one of the 15 designated labs in the country to test samples for presence of monkeypox virus, it is yet to get a nod from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, to start testing.

Sources said even after the lab was designated, it had not received testing kits for sometime. "Although testing kits have arrived, the NIV is yet to give its nod to start testing. Hence, we had sent the African national's samples to NIV for testing. Even if we start testing, we may have to send the reports to NIV for validation for sometime," sources in the lab said.

Ethiopian national with monkeypox symptoms quarantined in State

He had come to Bengaluru for renal transplant where he reported symptoms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

An Ethiopian national, a Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) patient, who came to Bengaluru from Addis Ababa on July 4 for renal transplantation, has been quarantined at a private hospital after he reported symptoms similar to monkeypox. His test reports are awaited.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. told *The Hindu* that his transplant was registered at Aster CMI hospital. He was accompanied by his cousin (donor) and his elder brother.

Before coming to India he was staying with his elder brother at Addis Ababa for about one month. He was not in contact with any of his family members except his brother and sister, who happens to be his cousin. He was on dialysis thrice a week since the last four years.

"On Monday (July 25), he developed rashes with itching on his left hand. The next day, the rashes and itching had spread all over the body (vesicular rash) with blood and fluid oozing out as informed by his translator," the Commissioner said. "He also had nausea, headache, and malaise. Even though rashes were all over the body, they were seen mainly on the back. Doctors who noticed the rashes when he came for dialysis on Tuesday suspected it to be monkeypox and collected his samples for tests."

Samples sent to NIV

K.V. Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), said his samples had been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for tests. "This is the second suspected case in Bengaluru. The first one, a female patient with suspected symptoms, had tested negative ten days ago. We are yet to receive the reports of the second person," he said.

Till July 27, seven of his primary contacts and eleven secondary contacts have been traced, the officials said.

No need to panic

Meanwhile, Health and Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar told reporters that there was no need for people to panic as monkeypox was not a deadly disease.

Arresting a wrong person in company liquidation case proves costly for police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Arresting the wrong person in connection with the liquidation proceedings of a company, pending before the court, has proved costly for the police as the High Court of Karnataka has now directed the State government to pay ₹5 lakh as compensation to the affected person.

The police had arrested Ningaraju N., a resident of Bengaluru, and produced him before the court even though he had pleaded with the police that he was not the one, N.G.N. Raju, an ex-director of M/s India Holiday (P) Ltd., which is under liquidation. The court had issued warrant against the ex-director Raju.

"It is rather shocking that a person has been arrested without ascertaining whether he was the person who was required to be arrested and that the warrant had been issued against him. Though the arrestee had categorically stated that he was not the person named in the warrant and disputed the applicability of the warrant to him, his identification was not cross-checked and verified resulting an innocent person being arrested by the police," the court observed.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order on an application filed by Mr. Ningaraju, who was wrongly arrested and produced before the court by the police.

Noticing that "the only reason why the applicant was arrested is that the name of his father was similar to the name of the person named in the warrant", the court wondered "how the name of the father being similar or even identical would have any role to play in the arrest".

Stating that illegal action by the police has affected the fundamental right to liberty and reputation of the applicant, the court directed the government to pay the compensation within eight weeks to the applicant. Also, the court said that the government could recover the compensation from the police officer, who arrested the wrong person.

IISc, Indian Navy sign MoU to work together on aviation research and development

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Indian Navy have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to collaborate on aviation research and development. This will "ramp up self-reliance efforts for the Indian Navy, in line with the goals of Atma Nirbhar Bharat," a press communique from IISc stated.

The MoU provides a formal basis for the Indian Navy to interact with relevant faculty members at IISc and will promote joint research programmes in areas of mutual interest, the statement said. The areas of collaboration will likely include Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineering, including design and education technology. Specialisations that will be under focus include Propulsion and Propulsion Systems, Steel Technology, Metallurgy and Material Sciences, and Corrosion Science; Systems and Controls, Instrumentation and Sensors; Environmental Science and Engineering, Energy Science and Engineering; Management (Technical and Logistics), Industrial Engineering and Operational Research, Nanotechnology and MEMS (Micro Electro Mechanical Systems), Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, and Machine Learning, IISc said.

Captain Sridhar Warrier, Registrar, IISc, and Captain P. Vinayagam, Capt (APP), Indian Navy, signed the MoU on Friday. "It is a privilege for us to collaborate with the Indian Navy in these important areas of mutual interest. We look forward to the many exciting research and development outcomes that will emerge from this partnership," said Capt. Warrier.

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Murders in DK: Messages maligning character of victims give leads to police

Police claim to have definite clues about the killers of Praveen and Fazil

RAGHAVA M.
MANGALURU

Going behind messages circulated on social media maligning characters of Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha activist 32-year-old Praveen Nettaru and 22-year-old Mohammed Fazil, soon after their murders, has led the police to persons allegedly involved in the murders.

Search is on for the key accused persons in both cases. While two arrests have been made in connection with the Praveen murder case, several people have been questioned in connection with the Fazil murder case.

Soon after the murder of Praveen at Bellare of Dakshina Kannada on July 26, some persons circulated on social media that the murder was a result of an extra-martial affair that the deceased had.

Similarly, after the murder of Fazil in Surathkal July 28, messages were afloat on social media that the deceased belonged to Sunni sect and he was in love with a girl from Shia sect. The attack was by the girl's family members who opposed the alliance, the messages claimed.

A file photo of police officials at the spot where Mohammed Fazil was murdered. • RAGHAVA M.

"The perpetrators tried to give a personal angle to the incidents to divert the attention of people away from murders that have happened on communal lines. We sensed this and were able to come close to those allegedly involved in the murders," a senior police officer involved in the investigation of the murders told *The Hindu*.

The Dakshina Kannada police have so far arrested Zakir, 29, of Savanoor and Shafiq, 27, of Bellare in connection with Praveen's murder. One arrested person allegedly provided food to the assailants, while another person was in constant touch with the killers. The officer said the State police would trace the killers before the case is officially handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Order on handing over Praveen's murder probe to the NIA is yet to be issued.

Working on clues available from the car used by the perpetrators in Fazil's murder, the Mangaluru city police are questioning persons suspected to be involved in the murder.

"We questioned 14 persons initially and on Friday questioned 21 persons. Sixteen more were questioned on Saturday. We are zeroing down to persons involved in the murder," Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar told reporters on Saturday.

On Mangaluru City North MLA Y. Bharath Shetty's statement that police should not arrest innocent people in Fazil's murder, Mr. Kumar said police were just questioning suspects. "We will arrest only those against whom we have evidence," he said and added that it was too premature to say anything about the political affiliation of the accused.

ABVP protests against Home Minister; FIR against 30 activists

Bommai, Araga pull up police; security tightened at residences of all Ministers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU/HASSAN

In an embarrassing turn of events for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the State government, a group of activists from the RSS' student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) held a protest at Home Minister Araga Jnanendra's official residence in Bengaluru on Saturday, demanding a ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates, who they alleged had a role in the murders of Hindutva activists.

Police personnel detain Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad activists as they protest at the residence of Home Minister Araga Jnanendra in Bengaluru on Saturday. • PTI

Mr. Jnanendra was not at home when the activists came. They barged into the house, broke flower pots, kicked open the door, and had an altercation when the police stopped them. Activists shouted slogans against inaction against the culprits in the murders of Hindutva activists.

Soon security personnel arrived and brought the situation under control. They were detained and the J.C. Nagar police registered an FIR against 30 ABVP activists. They were released later on station bail.

'I understand sentiment'

In a press statement, Mr. Jnanendra said he understands the sentiment expressed by the ABVP activists on banning the SDPI and the PFI. "The government is thinking about this," he said. "Their demand is that such outfits should be banned in the wake of incidents like the D.J. Halli-K.G. Halli communal incidents in the city and the recent murder of BJP youth leader Praveen Nettaru," he said, adding that he would invite them for talks.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Mr. Jnanendra reportedly pulled up the police and intelligence officials over intelligence failure and security breach. Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy ordered a probe into the security breach.

Given that trouble has been brewing in sections of the ruling BJP dominated by youths following the murder of party worker Praveen Nettaru, the city police are not taking any chances. Security has been beefed up at the residences of all Ministers in the city and zonal DCPs have been instructed to supervise security at all Ministers' residences in their jurisdictions. At the Home Minister's residence, a KSRP platoon has been deployed and *nakabandi* put up near the house to prevent further trouble.

Speaking at Sagar, the Minister said he had deliberately cut down the security cover as he was comfortable among people. "After the Chief Minister, I have got the highest security cover being the Home Minister. But I feel comfortable among people. I have reduced the number of policemen around me. I don't want to be surrounded by policemen always. Even at my residence at Guddekoppa in Tirthahalli taluk, I do not have many policemen for my security," he said.

Swami Marulapure, State organisation secretary, ABVP, told *The Hindu* that their protest was demanding a ban on the PFI and its affiliates and was not against the State government or Mr. Jnanendra.

Suspended

PSI Raje Sab, who was in charge of J.C. Nagar Police Station in the absence of the inspector on Saturday, and head constable Srinivas Murthy, attached with the Special Branch and in charge of intelligence in the jurisdiction – who were found to have been caught off guard by the protests at the Home Minister's residence during the probe – have been suspended for the security breach.

'U.P. model' rhetoric takes over 'Gujarat model' among Karnataka leaders

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Senior leaders in the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), starting from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, seem to be in a race to propound the "Uttar Pradesh model", a euphemism for the use of bulldozers and encounters to maintain law and order, especially against members from the minority community. This "model" seems to be the latest buzzword replacing the "Gujarat model" that leaders talked about earlier.

They seem to be under pressure from leaders of the youth wings of the party – Yuva Morcha and social media cell – who have resigned, and the ABVP that has protested against the Home Minister over the murder of party worker Praveen Nettaru.

Many voices from the top

While Mr. Bommai himself said they would implement the "U.P. model" if need be, Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, not known to take strident stances earlier, said the State "would be five steps ahead of Uttar Pradesh" and said the State government was "ready to do encounters". The former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa said Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh were different, but warned Muslims "not to spoil their lives, as they will suffer a lot". Raju Gowda, BJP MLA, on Saturday said the central leadership of the party was a proponent of "surgical strikes" and it was needed in the State too.

In a purported conversation between BJP Yuva Morcha national president Tejasvi Surya and a Yuva Morcha worker, he was heard saying they could have pelted stones on the road if it was a Congress government in power.

Concerns within party

While these statements have come under severe criticism of the Opposition, a section within the ruling party is also concerned.

"Ministers and even the Chief Minister openly alluding to encounters won't go down well with the people of Karnataka in an election year. We need to realise Karnataka is different from Uttar Pradesh. All the three murders in the coastal districts and the rebellion from within the ranks of the party cadre against the government is bad optics, showing the government and its leadership not to be in control," said a senior party strategist.

Congress MLA: How can Home Minister ensure safety of citizens?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge, former Minister and Congress MLA, has questioned the continuation of Home Minister Araga Jnanendra in the Cabinet and asked how can he ensure the safety of citizens when his own official residence comes under attack from Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) members.

The activists shouted slogans against the Minister and called him a "coward Home Minister".

What is the intelligence wing of the Home Department doing?
PRIYANK KHARGE, Congress MLA

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Kharge blasted the functioning of the Home Department.

"What is the intelligence wing of the Home Department doing?" asked Mr. Kharge, and alleged that the Home Minister had utterly failed in maintaining law and order in the State.

"How can the Minister ensure the protection of people if he had not been able to obtain information about his own party workers?"

The government should crack down against its party workers and activists to bring normality in the State, the Congress MLA said.

BJP fields Chinchansur for Council byelection

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday announced Baburao Chinchansur, a prominent Koli (Kabbaliga) community leader from the Kalyana Karnataka region, as its candidate for the byelection to be held to fill the seat vacated by C.M. Ibrahim in the Legislative Council.

The selection of Mr. Chinchansur is widely viewed as the BJP's reward for quitting the Congress and joining it and for his contributions to defeat the Congress veteran M. Mallikarjun Kharge in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Chinchansur entered the Assembly as a Congress member in 1989 by defeating Vishwanath Patil Hebbal of the Janata Party at Chittapur segment in Kalaburagi district. He won the next two Assembly elections (1994 and 1999) from the same constituency and against the same candidate to register a hattrick. He had handled seven departments as a Minister in S.M. Krishna's Council of Ministers.

He lost the 2004 Assembly election from Chittapur against Mr. Hebbal and won the next two elections from Gurmitkal (2008 and 2013). He again lost the Assembly election in 2018 from Gurmitkal against Janata Dal candidate Nagangouda Kandkur.He was among the several Congress leaders from the region such as Malikayya Guttedar, Umesh Jadhav, and Ambaraya Ashtagi, to quit the Congress and join the BJP in 2019 and work against Mr. Kharge in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. He was rewarded with the posts of State Vice-president of the BJP's OBC Morcha and later as the president of Nijasharana Ambigara Chowdaiah Development Corporation.

Encounter is no solution: Araga

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Taking a moderate stance, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said that "encounter" cannot be an answer for a murder. "One more death cannot be a solution to a murder," he said in Shivamogga on Saturday.

Araga Jnanendra

At a press conference, the Minister said when such incidents happen, it is quite natural for people to express strong opinions. "But we don't believe in that. We are taking all necessary actions to ensure the guilty are punished. We are appointing special public prosecutors to handle the cases and also appealing to the magistrates to take up the cases on priority. Special officers are being appointed to monitor the investigation into all murders," the Minister said.

He was responding to repeated appeals by the BJP cadre for "encounter" of murderers in keeping with the "Uttar Pradesh model of governance".

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mrs. T. SHOBHA**, aged about 46 years, W/o Manjunath Reddy, R/at. No.8/7, Mega City, Managondanahalli Main Road, K.R.Puram Post, Bangalore-560036, is intending to purchase the Schedule property from its owners (i) **Sri. M. RAMAKRISHNAPPA**, aged about 61 years, S/o Sri. Erappa (ii) **Smt. N. VIJAYALAKSHMI**, aged about 56 years, W/o Sri. M. Ramakrishna Both are R/at. No.391,1st Main, Road, Canara Bank Layout, Sahakar Nagar, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097, for Valuable Consideration. Any persons having any rights/claims/objections/Agreements/ Minor Claims, in respect of the schedule property are hereby requested to send their objections to the above mentioned address within 7 days, from the receipt of this public notice. If no objections are forth coming within **7 days**, my client shall get executed sale deed in her favour.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Old Sy. No.3, New Sy. No.188/2, measuring 033.08, Guntas and Sy No.188/3, Measuring 0.27.00, Guntas, Situated at Muddalahalli Village, Muragamalla Hobli, Chinthamani Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. In all measuring 1 acre 20½ guntas.

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Sri. Manjanath Reddy, Advocate
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DATE: 31.07.2022 **Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER**

Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority
Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Planning Circle, SD & SWM Sector, KMDA
Block- 'A', 5th Floor, Unnayan Bhavan,
Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091. (Mob: 8240515592)

PRE-TENDER CONFERENCE/ MEETING NOTICE

Superintending Engineer, Planning Circle, SD & SWM Sector, KMDA invites for participation in Pre-Tender Conference/ meeting for engagement of bidder through Open Tender from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced bidder who have successfully completed similar work in any Govt. Sector in India.

Sl No	Name of work	Date	Time	Venue
1	Bio-mining of Legacy Waste and land reclamation of dumpsites utilising scientific method located at Belgachia dump site, Howrah under Howrah Municipal Corporation on turnkey basis.	10.08.2022	14.00 hrs.	Conference Hall of KMDA, Unnayan Bhawan, 3rd floor, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.
2	Bio-mining of Legacy Waste and land reclamation of dumpsites utilising scientific method located at Chandmari dump site, Bally under Bally Municipality on turnkey basis.	10.08.2022	15.00 hrs.	
3	Integrated Solid Waste Management from Secondary Collection Point to final disposal including treatment, processing Waste to Energy Plant etc. for Howrah Municipal Corporation.	10.08.2022	16.00 hrs.	

In this conference, issues related to Terms of Reference (TOR)/ Scope of Work, Eligibility criteria etc will be discussed for finalization of the bid document relating to the above-mentioned work. Reference Contact no. **8240515592.** E-mail - **seplanning.sdswm.kmda@gmail.com.**

Sd/-
SE, Planning Circle, SD & SWM Sector, KMDA

LOST OF DOCUMENT

It is hereby informed to the general public my client Mr. Madhusudan Y.G. S/o Mr.Y.Gopalakrishna and Mrs. Roopa V Belur W/o Mr. Madhusudan Y.G. have lost the original duplicate copy of registered Sale deed Dated 06.12.2012 executed by Mr. N.R. Narayanan S/o N.V. Rajagopalan and Radhika Narayanan W/o Mr. N.R. Narayanan in favour of Mr. Madhusudan Y.G. S/o Mr.Y.Gopalakrishna and Mrs. Roopa V Belur W/o Mr. Madhusudan Y.G. Registered as document No.4602/2012-13, book 1, stored in CD No. JAYD159, in the office of the Sub Registrar Jayanagar Bangalore, pertaining to their immovable property i.e A Three Bed Room Apartment bearing No.02-2131, in the thirteenth Floor, BBMP Katha No. 1103/719/79/7/2/02-2131 in the Apartment Building Known as "SOBHA TULIP" constructed in the Schedule A Property (i.e residentially converted Land bearing Sy. No. 7/2, katha endorsement No. BNS/RO/CR/174/2005-06 situated at Puttenahalli Village Uttarhalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring in all about 2 Acres 32 Guntas) with a Super Built-Up area 2003.70 SqFt of Proportionate share in common areas and club House with One Car Parking Space in the basement along with 0.77% undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule A Property. Any person who found the above document may kindly hand over the same to the undersigned. In case if anybody misuse the above said sale deed document, my client is not held responsible for the same.

Bangalore
Date: **Sd/-**
LAKSHMANA.M, Advocate
No.168, 3rd Floor, Pooja Complex, 1st Cross, Kilari Road, Bangalore-560053

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
A FRUITFUL YEAR THAT MADE THE DEVOTEES OF THE STATE HAPPY
• Daiva Sankalpa Yojana for comprehensive development of 25 Muzrai A grade temples in the state at the cost of Rs. 1140 crore
• Kayakalpa Yojana: Kayakalpa Yojana for the development of C grade Muzrai temples
• ITMS: Implementation of Integrated Temple Management System to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India dream
• Kaashi Yatra Special Incentive: Rs.5,000/- incentive for the Kaashi Yatra pilgrims
• Bharat Gaurav Rail for Kaashi Yatra: Bharat Gaurav train for the first time in the country from state to Kaashi Yatra
• For the development of various temples, mutts in the state and Karnataka Chatras (Guest Houses) outside the state, highest grant of 706 crore rupees
• Special Gopuja in the temples on the occasion of Diwali every year
• Decision to celebrate every Ugadi as a Religious day across the state
• Launch of Drone survey for the protection of temple lands in the state
• Special grant of Rs.100 Crore for the comprehensive development of Anjanadri Hill
Smt. Shashikala A. Jolle,
Hon'ble Minister for Muzrai, Haj and Waqf,
Inspecting the Bharat Gaurav
Special Train along with the officials.
• Development of Karnataka Chatras (Guest Houses) at Srishaila Sukshetra, Ayodhya, Kaashi, Sabarimala, Guddapur and Pandharpur
S. R. Umashankar, IAS
Principal Secretary (HRI & CE)
Revenue Department
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Commissioner, Department of
Religious Endowment
HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT
Covid -19 - There should be caution not to worry
Wear Mask
6 Feet
Maintain Physical Distance
Wash / Sanitize your hands

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman releasing the book, 'Introduction on Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery', in Chennai on Saturday in the presence of Justice Dr. T.N. Vallinayagam, former High Court judge; K. Annamalai, BJP State president; Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson, THG Publishing Private Limited; and H. Raja, BJP leader • M. VEDHAN

PM has shaken up governance, says Nirmala Sitharaman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shaken up governance, and has a direct connect with the citizens and understands their problems, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Speaking at the launch of the book *Modi @20: Dreams Meet Delivery*, Ms. Sitharaman said "he [Mr. Modi] has shaken up governance. He often says he didn't come here [to politics] to enjoy power, be in government or rule, but to change the fundamentals. He often says 'there is a need to change governance, it is my goal...".

The Finance Minister said in 2013-14, the Indian economy put the nation among the 'fragile five' countries. "The leaders at that time [in power] were shaken. They used to keep mocking Modi-*ji* and questioned him. But people who were in power at that time...they had studied at Harvard and other institutions were shaken due to the global economic crisis of 2008," she said.

Ms. Sitharaman said compared to that period, there were a hundred times more problems now in the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Due to the lockdown that we announced immediately, our economy went into negative growth but India is now on a progressive path compared to several other countries who are under the threat of recession," she said.

She said the Jan Dhan Yojana of providing zero balance bank accounts, which was criticised by several opposition leaders, now has a balance of ₹1.60 lakh crore in those accounts.

Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson, THG Publishing Private Limited, said Mr. Modi is evolving from a politician to a statesman in his handling of traditionally difficult issues. She said he had made government accessible and citizens no longer feel that authority is remote and aloof.

Ms. Parthasarathy said that among the incontestable successes of the Prime Minister were the launch of the Digital India initiative, empowering citizens with digital technology to access basic services, changing the perception of the government as an all-controlling authority in daily life, liberating citizens from restrictions and cumbersome procedures that limit their capacities to achieve their dreams, and his acknowledgement and respect for regional cultural sensitivities.

"He has been sensitive to the cultural assertions of States – Tamil Nadu, for instance. He has recognised the imperative of softening the traditional stridency of the BJP on Hindi as the national language. He has established cordiality with Chief Ministers, firmly putting away the confrontational tenor of past exchanges between the Centre and State governments. This indeed is a refreshing departure from past practice and augurs well for the health of the federal structure of our country," she said.

Former High Court judge T.N. Vallinayagam said Mr. Modi works "for every single Indian without any discrimination".

Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai said the book was a multi-dimensional one on Mr. Modi's career and his way of working.

HC stays case, allows man to undergo de-addiction

Petitioner was booked in May 2021 for ganja consumption

KRISHNAPRASAD
BENGALURU

A 34-year-old drug addict got a chance at reformation, with the High Court of Karnataka staying the criminal proceedings against him after he voluntarily agreed to undergo medical treatment for de-addition at a hospital recognised for de-addiction programme.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on a petition filed by Rafsal K.R. who is residing in a luxury apartment near Whitefield in Bengaluru.

Quashing sought

The petitioner had sought quashing of the case against him by volunteering to undergo the de-addiction treatment. While the court declined to quash the proceedings at this stage, it permitted him to undergo the treatment as per Section 64A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, which gives immunity from prosecution to addicts who volunteer for treatment.

The court also asked him to file a report regarding the success or otherwise of the de-addiction treatment and the status of his health by November 21.

Booked by NCB

The petitioner was booked by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru, in May 2021 for consumption of ganja. He was arraigned as one of the accused based on the statement given by Abhishek Roy, an alleged drug peddler. Roy had given the names of his customers, including that of the petitioner to the NCB.

Rafsal was booked under Section 27 of the NDPS Act for consumption of drugs, which attracts punishment of up to one year with fine if found guilty. The petitioner admitted before the High Court that he was a drug addict and filed an affidavit giving an undertaking to undergo de-addition programme as per the NDPS Act.

Provision of law

Section 64A of the NDPS Act states that any addict, who is charged with an offence punishable under section 27 or with offences involving small quantity of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, who voluntarily seeks to undergo medical treatment for de-addiction from a hospital or an institution recognised by the government and undergoes such treatment, shall not be liable for prosecution under section 27 or under any other section for offences involving small quantity of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance.

However, this immunity from prosecution can be withdrawn if the addict does not undergo the complete treatment for de-addiction, says the Act.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5	33.2	26.9	Kozhikode	–	32.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	–	34.4	26.0	Kurnool	0.1	35.6	23.9
Aizawl	0.2	–	22.4	Lucknow	11.2	32.0	25.9
Allahabad	–	32.1	26.8	Madurai	–	35.4	25.1
Bengaluru	4.1	31.5	20.3	Mangaluru	79.4	29.9	21.6
Bhopal	–	–	24.4	Mumbai	0.5	31.8	26.2
Bhubaneswar	–	35.9	26.4	Mysuru	–	30.0	21.0
Chandigarh	24	30.0	25.5	New Delhi	20	32.5	24.5
Chennai	–	35.8	27.9	Patna	57	33.8	24.9
Coimbatore	4	34.1	23.6	Port Blair	6	31.2	26.2
Dehradun	45	26.6	23.0	Puducherry	–	33.6	26.0
Gangtok	2.2	19.7	17.5	Pune	8.6	31.7	23.1
Goa	–	31.7	26.2	Raipur	–	33.2	24.9
Guwahati	–	33.0	26.3	Ranchi	51	31.0	24.1
Hubballi	–	30.0	22.0	Shillong	3	25.4	17.4
Hyderabad	53	32.9	21.0	Shimla	40	21.0	16.5
Imphal	–	28.7	22.5	Srinagar	3	28.8	19.1
Jaipur	0.1	33.8	25.7	Thiruvananthapuram	–	32.0	25.3
Kochi	0.8	30.6	26.0	Tiruchi	–	36.5	26.5
Kohima	82	24.8	16.5	Vijayawada	–	35.0	25.6
Kolkata	0.4	35.6	28.0	Visakhapatnam	–	32.8	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	12	11	–	35	75	
Bengaluru	11	–	20	71	104	
Chennai	30	–	24	58	63	
Delhi	14	49	77	32	105	
Hyderabad	6	13	33	85	72	
Kolkata	12	14	17	51	71	
Lucknow	8	84	60	17	30	
Mumbai	5	10	17	162	121	
Pune	–	44	96	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	13	36	22	58	106	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Purnia, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 138 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Clear payment to power generators: PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who virtually took part in the grand finale of the 'Ujwal Bharat, Ujwal Bhavishya Power @2047' programme on Saturday, said a few State governments are faltering in their payments to the power generators and this could affect the power supply and development in the States. Combining payment default and subsidies, the State governments have to pay the power generators to the tune of about ₹1.25 lakh crore, he said.

The programme was organised by the Ministry of Power as part of the 'Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav' at AU Convention Hall on Beach Road in Visakhapatnam.

Mr. Modi said after taking over as PM in 2014, his prime focuses was to introduce reforms in the power sector to transform it into a driving force for the economy.

The generation has also gone up from 2 lakh MW to over 4 lakh MW and lines were laid across over 1.7 lakh kilometres.

Mr. Modi also spoke about green energy and the solar projects that are coming up in Telangana and Kerala.

'Rethink plan on Nemom terminal project'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) Member in the Rajya Sabha John Brittas alleged here on Saturday that the BJP and the Union Railway Ministry were playing hide and seek over the proposed railway terminal near Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram. Mr. Brittas said the Railway Board had informed the Rajya Sabha secretariat in May, that there is no sanction for a coaching terminal at Nemom. He urged the Centre to rethink about its plan to drop the project.

A delegation of Kerala BJP had recently met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on the issue. Mr. Brittas said in a statement that Mr. Vaishnaw denied a meeting with Ministers of the State government G.R. Anil and V. Sivankutti on the project. He said citing the Railway Board communication, that initially the work of a new coaching terminal at Nemom appeared in the Budget speech of Minister of Railways, in 2011-12.

Ballari Urban Development Authority, Ballari.
NO:BUDA/Engg/Indent No 448 & 459/2022-23 DATE:27/07/2022

RETENDER NOTIFICATION(Short Term)

The Commissioner, Ballari Urban Development Authority, HRG Circle Ballari invites the tender for the work detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, Trough e-Procurement portal. Two Cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tenders can submit their tenders for the work noted in the below table. The tender documents can be downloaded from the website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in . For any additional information the tenders may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Note: Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers Can view in e-procurement portal.

Details of Work: 1. BUDA/2021-22/RD/WORK_INDENT 448/Call-2. **Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 900.00 1.BUDA/2021-22/OW/Work_INDENT459/Call-2. **Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 373.62

The Tender Events are as under:

a) Pre-Bid Meeting Held on : **03-08-2022 at 11.30 Hrs in the office of Commissioner, Ballari Urban Development Authority, H R G Circle, Ballari.** b) Last Dates for Queries (through e-procurement Portal): **04-08-2022 up to 16:30 Hrs.** c) Last Date for submission of Tenders throughe-procurement Portal: **05-08-2022 up to 16:30 Hrs.** d) Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bids: **08-08-2022 at 16:30 Hrs in the office of Commissioner, Ballari Urban Development Authority, H R G Circle, Ballari.** e) Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bids: **17-08-2022 at 16:30 Hrs in the office of Commissioner, Ballari Urban Development Authority, H R G Circle, Ballari.**

Sd/- Commissioner.,
Ballari Urban Development Authority, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/308/MCA/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD - East Zone, BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.
No: EE/SWD-EAST/TEND/06/2022-23 Date: 30-07-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (SWD - East Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Package Name	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction / Remodelling of Primary, Secondary Drains, Culverts / Bridges and All Other allied Works of SWD Spread Out at Various Locations in Sir. C.V. Raman Nagar Assembly Constituency in East Zone under CM Amruth Nagarothana 2022-23 vide GO No: UDD 189 MNY, 2022 (E), Bangalore Dated: 21-04-2022 (Action plan numbers 1, 2 & 1) (03 Works).	578.40	8,67,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** 2) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting on **05-08-2022 at 16.00 Hrs.** 3) Last Date for Submission of Bid Document **on 12-08-2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid **on 16-08-2022, 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWD, East Zone, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No. EE/PWD/HSN/AE-2/2022-23/ DATED: 29.07.2022.

Postponement of Short term Tender Notification

This Office **Short term Tender Notification No.06/2022-23, Dated 06.07.2022,** for Sl No. 04 and 05 works, last date of Receipt of tender has been postponed to 10.08.2022, no other Changes, for more details visit http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.
ಪಾಸಕರು/ಹಿಂ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಂ/366/2022-23

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION - 2nd CALL
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
KPTCL/B121/26098(1)/21-22/A Dated: 29/07/2022

KPTCL invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for the work of **Repair and maintenance to 'A' 'B' and 'C' blocks (outside portion painting) of Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru (Second call).** The offers will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only. The estimated cost of the work put to tender is **Rs. 58.80 Lakhs** (including GST). Other details regarding qualifying requirements, period of completion etc., can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **'e-Procurement KPTCL'** or **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **01.08.2022.** Any details required in this regard can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours. (Telephone No. **080-22238784**).

Sd/- General Manager (Tech),
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavana, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560 054.
No.EE/MLM/E-PROC/09/2022-23 Date: 30-07-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) KW-4
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites item rate tenders for the following work from registered contractors of BBMP/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Project Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹)
1.	Procurement of Lab Regents & equipments to PHC's (with installation & commissioning) in Malleshwaram Constituency for Post Covid Patients.	100.00	200000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date and Time for receipt of tenders : **08-08-2022 upto 4:00 p.m. (2)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **10-08-2022 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated through e-procurement). Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, BBMP.

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that we have been accorded environmental clearance by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for our proposed construction of Residential building project at Sy.No. 48/1, 48/2, 49/1, 49/2 and 50/2 Chikkagubbi Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. The copies of the said clearance available in Karnataka Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and also can be seen in the website of SEIAA http://www.seiaa.karnataka.gov.in

Radiance Realty Developers India Ltd., No. 29, Empire Infantry, Ground Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru- 560001.

Government of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat Haveri)
Office of the District Program Management Unit, Haveri
☎: 08375-249127 Fax : 08375-249009 ✉ : rchohaveri@gmail.com
SL.No/DPMU/HVR/RCH/Vehicle-Tender/03/2022-23 Date : 29-07-2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub : Inviting Tender for Engagement of Driver cum Non AC Vehicle on contract basis through E- Procurement.
Ref: Approval note form Chief Executive Officer, ZP Haveri dt: 23-06-2022

Sealed tender in two bid systems are invited for engagement of agencies from Registered Tours and Travels Vehicle providers for Providing Private Vehicle Services with Driver to the Taluka RBSK and District RBSK, NCD, NMHP, NTCP, DPM AND DQAU UNIT HAVERI under NHM for the year 2022-23 to various health programmes of Haveri district. The manual bids shall not be accepted. 2. The estimated cost for one year will be about Rs. **6924000** Lakhs (Sixty Nine Lakhs twenty four thousand). The amount of EMD security deposit is Rs. **1.38** Lakhs (One Lakh thirty Eight Thousand). 3. Tender Document can be downloaded from (www.eproc.karanataka.gov.in) as per schedule given here under:- **Schedule** : (1) Tender Publish Date : **29-07-2022** (2) Tender Value (Approximate) : Rs. **69.24** Lakhs (3) Bid Submission End date : Date : **27-08-2022** Time : 4.30 PM (4) Technical Bid Opening date : Date : **29-08-2022** Time : 11:00 AM (5) Earnest Money Deposit to be submitted (EMD) Rs. **1.38** Lakhs (One Lakh thirty Eight Thousand only) (6) Liaison Officer and address : District Reproductive & Child Health Officer Haveri : Ph : **08375-249049-249066**

DIPR/HVR/MCA/190/2022-23 Sd/- District R.C.H Officer, Haveri

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277941, E-mail: eerdwsd.bjp@gmail.com
No:EE/RdWSD/VIP/eproc/Tender/2022-23/642 Dated:25.07.2022

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION SHORT TERM

On behalf of Governor of Govt. of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water and sanitation division, Vijayapur has invited tender through E-procurement Portal for water supply works as follows.

Two Cover : 1 Works **(Indent No-40390, Amount Put to Tender- 452.66 lakhs)**

Last date for submission of online tender through e-proc. is **12.08.2022 at 5.30 PM** Date of opening of Technical bid is **16.08.2022 at 11.00 AM**. Date of opening of Financial bid is **18.08.2022 at 11.00 AM.**

More details can be have from the office of the undersigned and also through http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- (Chandrashekar V Chavan)
Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Vijayapur
ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/313/2022-23

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore – 560009

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.03/2022-23 DATED: 30.07.2022
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Tender is invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Rural under different head of account work. The work details can be obtained from the e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** the tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before dated: **16.08.2022 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist, Bangalore
DIPR/CP/Adv/1586/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-1, (Lakes), 3rd Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
No: EE-1/(Lakes)/Tend/05/2022-23 Date: 30.07.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer-1 (Lakes), BBMP invites Tenders from eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimated Cost of Work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1	Balance developmental works at Sigehalli Lake and Chikkabasavanapura Lake.	284.00	4,26,000.00
2	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Balance Reach at Nallurahalli Lake.	75.00	1,50,000.00
3	Emergency work at Sarakki Lake.	100.00	2,00,000.00

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from **05.08.2022** (2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **22.08.2022** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **11.08.2022** at **3:00** pm in the office of the Executive Engineer-1, Lakes, BBMP. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **23.08.2022** at **4:30** pm in the office of the Executive Engineer-1 (Lakes). Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-1, (Lakes)

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

FROM PAGE ONE

Koshyari under attack for 'insulting Marathis'

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray also criticised the Governor's remark. "It is only because of Marathi people that good job opportunities have been created in the State for those outside of Maharashtra to come and work here. With the elections around the corner, one should not spread any rumours. Do not assume that we are innocent to believe this. Do not fool Marathi *manoos*," he tweeted in Marathi

Even senior BJP leader Ashish Shelar distanced himself from Mr. Koshyari's remarks and said: "Maharashtra and Mumbai's development happened through the hard work of Marathi *manoos*, history also shows the same. No one should hurt it."

Clarification

On Saturday afternoon, a statement was issued from Mr. Koshyari's office, clarifying, "I spoke only on the contribution made by Gujaratis and Rajasthanis. Marathi people built Maharashtra by working hard. This is why many Marathi entrepreneurs are famous today. The contribution of Marathi people is the maximum in bringing up Maharashtra. Mumbai is the pride of Maharashtra."

Stating that he did not agree with the Governor's remarks, Mr. Shinde said: "He has now issued a clarification. He occupies a constitutional post and should take care that his actions do not insult others. The Marathi community's hard work has contributed to the development and progress of Mumbai....No one can insult Mumbai and Marathi people," he added.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "Even in the industrial sector, Marathi-speaking people have made global strides. We don't agree with the Governor's remarks." This isn't the first time Mr. Koshyari has invited trouble. Previously, after inaugurating four new buildings in Mumbai University, he had urged the Chancellor to name the international students hostel after Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar. However, the student organisations opposed this suggestion and demanded that the hostel be named after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Mr. Koshyari's clarification, however, was only viewed as a divisive ploy ahead of the Brihamumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections. Besides, it has highlighted the old divide between Gujaratis and Marathis that has prevailed since the time of the Samyukta Maharashtra movement of the 1960s, when Bombay and Gujarat were carved out of Bombay Presidency and Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray used to openly advocate for the welfare of Marathis.

"What is seen is that all non-Maharashtrians vote for the BJP. If you look at the BMC elections of 2007 and 2012, you will see that the party invited Narendra Modi to campaign for them in Mumbai and Thane. So, for Gujaratis, it is a matter of pride that someone from their State is in BJP, which made them vote for the party. Even in the 2017 BMC elections, what was seen is that Gujaratis, Marwaris and Rajasthanis voted for the BJP and that is because of Mr. Modi and the Hindutva factor," explained Professor Sanjay Patil, a researcher at Mumbai University, whose doctoral thesis tracks the Sena's political journey from 1985.

Decisive war against drugs, says Shah

'Between 2014 and 2021, contraband estimated at ₹20,000 crore was seized in the country'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Union government was effectively pursuing a decisive war against the drugs menace, saying that between 2014 and 2021, drugs estimated at ₹20,000 crore were seized in the country as against the seizures valued at only ₹768 crore between 2006 and 2013.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing the Narcotics Control Bureau's national conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security in Chandigarh on Saturday. • PTI

Mr. Shah said the government was working with a multi-pronged approach towards a "drug-free India" and was progressing at a rapid pace in that direction. "We have adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics and drug abuse and encouraging results are being witnessed," he said. The difference between ₹768 crore (estimate of drug seizures from 2006 to 2013) and ₹20,000 crore (2014 to 2021) was indicative of the fact that the government's campaign and its path was in the right direction.

A few loopholes

"The necessity is to put a cap on a few loopholes that are left on the path, and I want to promise that we are rapidly working in that direction," he said. Mr. Shah said from 2014 to 2021, there were seizures of 3.3 lakh kilograms of drugs in the country. He said the registration of cases related to drugs had seen a 200% rise, while arrests in drug cases has gone up by 260% during the same period. "...If I talk about the seized drugs, between 2006-2013 about 1.52 lakh kilograms of drugs were seized; on the other hand, between 2014 and 2021 as much as 3.3 lakh kg of drugs were caught," he said.

Mr. Shah was speaking here at the National Conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security aimed at formulating strategies to root out the drug abuse from the northern States.

CMs joined

The Chief Ministers of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, the Administrator of Chandigarh and officers of different Drugs Enforcement Agencies participated in the first-of-its-kind of national conference that saw all these participants on one platform.

Mr. Shah said drug smuggling was a big challenge for national security, and the Modi government was dealing with it firmly.

"We are committed to freeing the younger generation from the menace of drugs. To make this fight against drugs more coordinated, many new initiatives like NCORD and NIDAAN portals have been initiated," he said.

Militant killed, three security men injured

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

One unidentified militant was killed and three jawans were injured in an anti-militancy operation in Baramulla on Saturday. "There was a tip-off about the presence of militants, and a joint operation was launched in Baramulla's Wanigam. The hiding militant opened fire and resulted in an encounter. Two Army soldiers and a policeman were injured," Rayees Mohammad Bhat, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Baramulla, said.

He said the hiding militant was also killed in the encounter, "whose identity is being ascertained".

"One AK-47, three magazines and a pouch were recovered (from the encounter site)," Mr. Bhat said.

The police said the operation in the area has been called off.

Bail denied to Teesta, Sreekumar

They defamed Modi, got monetary benefits from a political party: judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad Sessions Court on Saturday denied bail to social activist Teesta Setalvad and former IPS officer R.B. Sreekumar in a case related to alleged forgery and fabrication of documents to frame innocent people in the cases related to the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Teesta Setalvad being taken to Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Ahmedabad on June 26. • VIJAY SONEJI

Additional Principal Judge D.D. Thakkar rejected their bail pleas. The judge delivered the order on the last day of service as he superannuated on July 31.

In his order, he noted that they had defamed the then CM of Gujarat [Narendra Modi] and also gained monetary benefits from a political party and from abroad.

"On perusing the statement of witnesses, it appears that both these applicants and others were actively involved in the conspiracy against the then Chief Minister and Ministers, police officers as well as bureaucrat etc," he observed in the order.

"Therefore, looking to the above facts and circumstance, even though the applicant is being a lady (Setalvad) and another is retired IPS officer (Sreekumar) and aged person, they are not required to be enlarged on bail," the order noted.

The court also held that the original complainant Zakia Jafri, who had named the then CM and others for a conspiracy of the 2002 riots, was "inspired and instigated" by the applicants accused of the present case.

Arrested in June

Earlier in the last week of June, Ms. Setalvad and Mr. Sreekumar were arrested by the Ahmedabad Police Crime Branch following a First Information Report (FIR) against them under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 468 and 194 and 120 (B). The IPC section 468 deals with forgery for purpose of cheating and 194 deals with giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction for capital offence while 120 (B) deals with criminal conspiracy.

During the hearing in the bail plea, the Gujarat Police in an affidavit has alleged that Ms. Setalvad and Mr. Sreekumar were part of a "larger conspiracy" carried out at the behest of late Congress leader Ahmed Patel to destabilise the then BJP government led by Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of the State.

Citing statements of witnesses, the Police had submitted in the court that Ms. Setalvad was paid ₹30 lakh at Patel's behest soon after the Godhra train burning incident of 2002 in which 59 pilgrims returning from Ayodhya were killed.

Geetanjali Shree's event in Agra called off

It was cancelled after a police plaint

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

An event to honour International Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree in Agra was called off on Saturday by the organisers after a complaint was lodged against the author, alleging objectionable comments against Hindu deities in her work.

The participants at the Agra event to honour the author. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The event was postponed as the author told us she was hurt by the development and would not like to participate in a social event for the time being," Ram Bharat Upadhayay, spokesperson of the organising committee of the event, said.

Mr. Upadhayay told *The Hindu* that the day the complaint was lodged in Sadabad town of neighbouring Hathras district, some anti-social elements tried to disrupt a felicitation event of the author at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). "There could be a connection between the incidents and her decision," he said.

Event peaceful

Notably, Mr. Upadhaya said a discussion on *Ret Samadhi* (Tomb of Sands) was organised on Saturday in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, where noted writers participated and the event passed off peacefully.

Presided over by Harnarayan, editor of literary magazine *Kathadesh*, the participants expressed their shock at the attack on literary figures.

R.C. Sharma, a Professor of History, said mythology should not be confused with history.

"There is no point in creating controversy over the mythical reference to Shiva and Parvati in *Ret Samadhi*." The event also saw the dramatic reading of the author's popular story *Private Life*. Meanwhile, Ashish Kumar Singh, SHO of Sadabad police station in Agra district, said when Mr. Sandeep Kumar Pathak, a reader in the local court came with the complaint, he was told it did not come under the jurisdiction of the Hathras police as the publisher was based in Delhi.

"As it is a matter involving an author of repute about a book that is in the public domain for some time, we felt the charges didn't warrant immediate action, and the FIR was not lodged. We wanted to understand if there was merit in his charges. But the complainant started approaching the media and wrote to higher authorities in Lucknow," he said.

While the author chose to remain silent, her publisher Ashok Maheshwari said she was shocked and hurt by the recent developments.

"Civil society's growth depends on good literature and healthy dialogue. We have to maintain a conducive environment for creative expression for our writers and intellectuals. It is the collective responsibility of an educated society."

5G telecom services to be made available: Vaishnaw

Mr.Vaishnaw said that as of Saturday, the government had fetched ₹1.49 lakh crore from 5G spectrum auction and expressed the confidence that this would cross ₹1.5 lakh crore.

"Close to ₹1.49 lakh crore has been committed by the industry for buying spectrum. This shows how the sector is maturing in a very nice way," he said. "The 5G spectrum auction is doing well shows that the industry is taking off, the results are very good," he said.

"Industry has come out of the old phase, entering a sunrise stage, where new infusion of capital investment can happen," Mr. Vaishnaw added. Answering a question that the telecom market is heading for a duopoly considering the precarious financial health of Vodafone India Limited (VIL), in which the government has recently acquired around 33% stake, he said it wouldn't happen.

"Duopoly will not happen. The September reforms [in the telecom sector] have resulted in good stability in the industry. We are looking at new players to enter the segment. There is going to be good healthy competition in the sector. BSNL will emerge as a good market balancer," he said.

To a question on the government's strategy for VIL, Mr. Vaishnaw said, "We don't want to be on the board of any company. The equity coming to the government will be kept in an entity which does not have any day-to-day relationship with the management of the company. The company will remain a professionally managed one."

"We believe there will be fresh investment coming in Vodafone Idea. The very fact that they are participating in 5G auction shows that the company should be able to get on to a growth path. We believe that it will be a growth phase for the entire industry," he said.

Mr. Vaishnaw said that since the volumes are huge in the telecom industry, it has been able to to sustain a higher level of debt. He said most of the issues, such as liabilities on the balance sheets arising out of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) and spectrum issues, had been addressed by the reforms of 2021. "If something else needs to be done to make the industry healthy, we will do it, so that we are able to reach to remote places too, in far-flung villages as well," he said.

He said the PLI (production linked incentive) scheme for the telecom sector had fetched very good response. "Close to 31 companies had received permission under PLI, close to 1 lakh crore incremental production is going on under the scheme," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "Over the next two-three years, we hope to achieve similar success in telecom equipment manufacturing, like our success in electronics manufacturing. We hope that many of these firms will become exporters and make their mark in the world," he added.

The Minister said that a new legal structure for the telecom sector was being put in place towards ease of doing business. "This kind of industry needs a very stable and forward-looking, futuristic and born-digital kind of law. That is what will spur the next round of growth," he said, adding that the three archaic laws that currently govern the industry will go.

"We are changing the entire legal structure. We are still governed by an 1885 law, an 1933 law and a 1950 law. The PM has abolished around 1,500 laws. We are going to clean up the telecom legal framework so that there is no disruption to the industry," he said.

CBI seizes copter from fraud accused

It was in a hangar on the premises of Bhosale, allegedly involved in DHFL case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The CBI on Saturday seized an AgustaWestland helicopter from the premises of Avinash Bhosale, who is allegedly involved in the Yes Bank and Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) fraud, which caused a loss of ₹34,000 crore to a consortium of 17 banks led by the Union Bank of India.

The helicopter seized by the CBI on Saturday. • PTI

According to the agency, ABIL Infraprojects Ltd., a company owned by Avinash Bhosale, allegedly has stake in the said helicopter that was parked in a hangar on Mr. Bhosale's premises on Baner Road, Pune.

In a press release, the CBI stated that RKW Developers Private Ltd. (a company owned by the Wadhawan family, promoters of DHFL) allegedly has stakes in Varva Aviation (an Association of Persons), which owns AW109SP Grand New Helicopter (AgustaWestland Helicopter) purchased in 2011.

RKW Developers Private Ltd. joined the Association of Persons in 2017, contributing towards cost price and maintenance of the said helicopter. It is alleged that the funds used for making payment towards the stake in Association of Persons were sourced from loan funds sanctioned by different banks. On July 25, the CBI filed a supplementary chargesheet against Mr. Bhosale, who was arrested on March 26, for allegedly routing illicit funds through several real estate companies based in Maharashtra.

Between April and June 2018, Yes Bank Ltd. had invested ₹3,700 crore in the short-term debentures of DHFL. Simultaneously, Mr. Wadhawan paid a kickback of ₹600 crore to Rana Kapoor and his family members in the garb of a builder loan given by DHFL.

It has been learnt that DHFL has not redeemed the amount of ₹3,700 crore invested by Yes Bank in its debentures till date.

ED attaches ₹110-cr. assets in Karvy case

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached moveable and immoveable assets estimated at ₹110.7 crore in a money laundering case registered against Karvy Stock Broking Ltd. (KSBL), its chairman Comandur Parthasarathy and others in the ₹2,800-crore Karvy scam, the agency said on Saturday.

A total attachment of ₹2,095 crore has been done in the case. The newly attached properties are in the form of land parcels, buildings, shareholdings, cash, foreign currency and jewellery. Mr. Parthasarathy and Group chief financial officer G. Hari Krishna were earlier arrested by the ED and they are currently out on bail.

MEA silent on Ukraine blacklisting 3 Indians

Sources say addition of their names may be a mistake

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The listing of a centre run by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) that named the Chairperson of India's National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) P.S. Raghavan on a list of people allegedly promoting "Russian propaganda", might have been a "mistake", said sources, indicating that the Ukrainian government should clarify its intent, given its potential impact on relations. However, a senior Ukrainian official has justified the listing, calling the people named in its list "unconditional agents of Russian influence", and threatened sanctions against them. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to comment on the Ukrainian government listing, which first appeared on July 14, and was reported this week in *The Wire*.

P.S. Raghavan, former Ambassador to Russia

According to the Centre for Countering Disinformation report, Mr. Raghavan was responsible for implying Ukraine was a cover for NATO in the conflict with Russia. All three Indians – Mr. Raghavan, U.S.-based author Sam Pitroda, and veteran journalist Saeed Naqvi – whose names appeared on it, have rejected the listing. Mr. Raghavan has recently been reappointed by the government and is serving his third term as NSAB chief.

Mr. Raghavan, a former Ambassador to Russia and a regular contributor to *The Hindu*'s columns, said the allegation was too "ridiculous to merit comment". Mr. Raghavan and Mr. Pitroda were both invited to the same conference run by a U.S.-German think tank, the Schiller Institute, on Ukraine, and it is likely their names were added to the list along with others who had been contacted to participate in the institute's conference in April this year, and that recommended a more conciliatory approach towards Russia by the European Union, the sources said. Mr. Raghavan said he had not participated in the online conference and it was possible his name was added without any verification.

However, speaking to author Kapil Kommireddi, who had worked briefly in a voluntary capacity with the Ukrainian First Lady's team, Mr. Zelensky's chief adviser Mikhailo Podalyak defended the listing on Friday.

"The inclusion of certain people, including representatives of foreign states, in the 'military illustration lists' is absolutely justified because information is an extremely important part of the war as a whole," Mr. Podolyak told the author for a column that appeared in *The Print*. "Ukraine constantly monitors which public figures in the world are spreading Russia's cannibalistic narratives. Recording such facts, we consider these people to be unconditional agents of Russian influence," he added.

In a statement, the head of the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, whose name is also on the NSDC list along with a few prominent European Parliament members and U.S. lawmakers like Tulsi Gabbard, said that it seemed the Ukraine government report had specifically targeted the institute, as 30 of the list of 78 on the list had been speakers at their conferences. "The 'poor' authors of the centre seem to suffer from the syndrome of belief in conspiracy theories, since they assume that such a wide array of speakers representing top institutions from around the globe are all Putin agents and can't think for themselves," Ms. Zepp-LaRouche said.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Delhi did not respond to requests for a comment.

INTERVIEW | MARGARET ALVA

'Where is the south in this whole set-up, and who represents us?'

We are developed States, we have done so much... but we don't have a representative at the highest level, says the Opposition's Vice-Presidential candidate

SANDEEP PHUKAN

Opposition's Vice-Presidential candidate, **Margaret Alva**, *who never shies away from a good fight, has made the election about 'non-representation' of South India in the country's top leadership. Edited excerpts:*

The numbers are stacked against the Opposition in the Vice-Presidential election, but you have chosen to contest. Is there a political point that you wish to make?

■ Well, win or lose, a contest had to be faced, right. You're not going to just give away. The Opposition requested me, saying that most of them felt that I would be able to articulate their point of view. And I said yes, without hesitation. Let me say I am making a point. Always, there has been a convention that the top posts have a representation of different regions. In the present set-up, the President is from the north, the Prime Minister is from the north and now you have the V-P candidate from the north. The south is nowhere in the picture, including the Lok Sabha Speaker. I want to know why is the south ignored. Why couldn't Shri Venkaiah Naidu been given another term? He could have been given a second term. He's been such a distinguished person, a very loyal man of their party and respected in the south very much. Why not he for another term? Where is the south in this whole set-up? Who represents us?

Secondly, I do want to say that there is a great deal of unease in the south. We are developed States, we have done so much. We have brought down our population. We are contributing to the taxes and Delhi. Now as we go along, they say there will be delimitation and the south will begin to lose seats in Parliament. This is a matter of concern to all the southern States. I mean our numbers will go down in Parliament. We don't have a representative at the highest level. So, what's going to happen? It's time the MPs from the south decide and send a message: they need to be heard. This is a secret ballot; you can't issue a whip. Our Constitution provides that the two top constitutional posts should have the best persons for the country.

The Constitution has to be saved, democratic institutions need to be strengthened and the voices of the people must be heard. Today we have a President, who is a woman and a tribal person. I am proud of her achievement. But what about the agitations by tribals, fighting for their land rights, fighting to be recognised. All their leaders have been put in jail.

I have nothing to hide, nothing to explain and I have no problems with Soniaji.

The voice of reason is being silenced by threats, blackmail or putting people in jail. I am appealing to the MPs to listen to their conscience.

Why bring in the element of regionalism for constitutional posts?

■ It's not a question of regionalism, it's a question of representation to all parts of the country.

Since you made an appeal to MPs across party lines, have you reached out to Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee to seek support?

■ In an election, as a candidate, I am in touch with everyone, including NDA allies and BJP friends with whom I have worked for many years.

You went to meet MPs in Parliament on a day when one witnessed a face-off between Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Union Minister Smriti Irani. What are your thoughts on the nature of relationship between the Opposition and Treasury benches now?

■ Did Smriti Irani behave like a Minister in the House? I believe Parliament is for debate, discussion and for a consensus to be worked out in spite of differing priorities and differing perceptions. And that is the role of the Chair. And that is why I've been saying you need strong, impartial people in both the Houses. You can't be part of the government, you have to be independent. You have to direct the debate in the House.

And when things break down, it is your role to call people; maybe to your chamber, not suspend people or adjourn the House.

Yesterday, for instance, they were shouting about price rise, which affects every constituency, every voter. But you don't want to debate that because it embarrasses you. This is where the Chair and the Business Advisory Committee come in. You have to fix the agenda for the day and say these are the issues that need to be discussed.

You recently made a serious charge that the fear that 'Big Brother' is watching permeates all conversations. Did you really feel that the government was listening in on your conversations?

■ To everything. My phones get diverted to some unknown number. That's not only me. This fear permeates all MPs, members of the press and even the judiciary. We have seen in the earlier debate on Pegasus. Are we heading for a police state? Free press is the basic requirement of a living democracy. How many journalists have been picked up for tweeting simple tweets? If you say something you're charged with sedition. What kind of democracy are we living in?

The day your name was announced, BJP leaders quoted from your autobiography, *Courage and Commitment*, **to target the Congress, especially the Gandhis. Did that make you uncomfortable?**

■ Why are they [BJP leaders] worried about my relationship with my party? Everything recorded in my book is part of parliamentary debate, records and so on. I have nothing to hide, nothing to explain and I have no problems with Soniaji.

What are your thoughts on this perception that the Congress as a party lacks focus, can't win elections even at the State level and uncertainty about its leadership at the top?

■ Please don't say it can't win elections. Even when we are the single-largest party or people elect us to rule, like in Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Karnataka, you use your Central agencies, threaten people, use money power. The idea is to change the composition of government and not what the people voted for. So don't say we lost elections, say we have lost the governments we formed. The idea is to first finish the Congress if they can.

Speed up release of undertrials, says PM

Only a few can afford to approach courts for justice, the majority suffers in silence: Chief Justice of India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ease of justice is as important as ease of doing business and ease of living, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday as he urged the judiciary to speed up release of undertrials who are languishing in jails, awaiting legal aid.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana and Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju stressed the urgent need to address the plight of undertrials by providing them legal aid. They were speaking at the first All India District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) Meet here.

Supreme Court judges Justices U.U. Lalit and D.Y. Chandrachud were on the dais. There are 676 DLSAs in the country, each headed by a district judge.

Only a small percentage of the population can afford to approach the courts for justice, while the majority suffers in silence, CJI Ramana said.

According to the *Prison Statistics India* report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2020, there were as many as 4,88,511 prison inmates, of whom 76%, or 3,71,848, were undertrials.

Legal code: PM Narendra Modi with Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana during the inaugural session of the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet in New Delhi. • PTI

In his address, the Prime Minister lauded the use of technology in India's judicial system, adding that access to the judicial system was equally important as delivery of justice for any society.

"This is the time of *Azadi ke Amrit Kaal*. This is the time for the resolutions that will take the country to new heights in the next 25 years. Like ease of doing business and ease of living, ease of justice is equally important in this *Amrit Yatra* of the country," Mr. Modi said.

Noting that the Supreme Court, on several occasions, had spoken on the need to be sensitive towards the humanitarian issue of undertrials, he suggested that the DLSAs can take up the responsibility of providing legal aid to such prisoners.

The district judges, as chairpersons of undertrial review committees (UTRCs), can expedite the release of undertrial prisoners, Mr. Modi said.

"As important as access to the judicial system is for any society, justice delivery is equally important. The judicial infrastructure also has an important contribution to this. In the past eight years, work has been done at a fast pace to strengthen the judicial infrastructure of the country," he said.

Mr. Modi praised the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) for undertaking a campaign for the release of undertrial prisoners, and urged the Bar Council to encourage more lawyers to get involved in it.

Space for all

The Chief Justice highlighted India's hard reality of social and economic disparities affecting the democratic objective of justice for all. The majority of the population lacked legal awareness and necessary means to approach the courts, he said.

"Modern India was built around the goal of removing the disparities in the society. Project Democracy is about providing a space for participation of all. Participation will not be possible without social emancipation. Access to justice is a tool for social emancipation," he said.

He said strengthening the district judiciary was the "need of the hour".

They are the first point of contact for much of the population. Public's opinion about the judiciary would primarily rest on their experiences with the district judicial officers.

Mr. Rijiju said that under a NALSA campaign, launched on July 16 to identify undertrial prisoners who are eligible for release, weekly meetings would be held with an aim to release the maximum number of undertrials on or before August 15.

The DLSAs have been mandated to hold weekly meetings of UTRCs to discuss progress of cases, review additional cases and further action, including filing of bails in the High Courts and the Supreme Court, if required, the Law Minister said.

Justice Chandrachud said justice should not be limited to the socio-economically privileged sections and it was the duty of the state actors to secure a "just and egalitarian" social order.

Patna University students gherao BJP president Nadda

Demand for Central university status and rollback of NEP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Bhartiya Janata Party president J.P. Nadda faced loud protests on Saturday from students of Patna University, his *alma mater*, during his two-day visit to the city to participate in the joint national executive meeting of seven frontal organisations of the party.

Earlier in the day, a mega roadshow was held by BJP workers and leaders to welcome Mr. Nadda in Patna. He was taken atop a makeshift vehicle along with two Deputy Chief Ministers of the State, Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, former Union Minister Ravi Shanker Prasad and others. Hundreds of motorbikes were escorting Mr. Nadda's convoy with young people riding on them and shouting slogans *Nadda zindabad, BJP zindabad*.

Students' voice: AISA activists staging a protest during BJP president J.P. Nadda's visit to Patna on Saturday. • PTI

Shouting slogans

However, when Mr. Nadda reached the university campus, activists of the All India Students Association (AISA) staged a protest and gheraoed him while shouting the slogan "*Nadda go back*".

The protesting students demanded Central university status for Patna University and rollback of the National Education Policy, 2020. The security personnel managed to disperse the protesting students and take Mr. Nadda out of the college campus.

"Mr. Nadda's gherao was a serious security lapse by the State Police and that too at a place where police officials from top to bottom sit. There was not a single woman police person deputed at the protest site," a BJP leader said while speaking to *The Hindu* and requesting anonymity. "What if something serious had happened," he asked.

The BJP is a ruling alliance partner of the Janata Dal (U) in the State, but JD(U) leaders are said to be not happy with the BJP's two-day convention in Patna which is seen as a beginning of the party's preparation for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar too had made a similar demand for according Central university status to Patna University at a function in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present, but Mr. Modi had skirted the demand in his speech.

Earlier in the day, supporters of a BJP State leader Jivan Kumar were seen engaged in scuffle for occupying space at a stage erected to welcome the party chief and other leaders.

Defeat divisive voices: NSA at inter-faith meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval said on Saturday that a few people were trying to incite violence in the name of religion and ideology which affected the country and had global ramifications.

Mr. Doval was speaking at an inter-faith meeting of the Ajmer-based All India Sajjadnashin Council where a resolution was passed to ban organisations such as the Popular Front of India for "indulging in anti-national activities".

Such "elements and forces" were trying to obstruct India's progress, he said. "Such divisive voices get amplified and one of the reasons for this is that most of you don't oppose them vociferously and the acts of a small minority appears to become the voice of India," he said, while pointing to the delegates at the meeting.

He asked the members not to be mute spectators and work on the ground to defeat the polarising voices. A message should reach every house that this country is for people of all faiths are free to practise their religion, he said.

Protests over Bengal SSC recruitment scam grow

Attempts to placate job aspirants fail

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

While the Trinamool Congress leadership tried to placate job aspirants seeking employment in State-run schools, protests erupted in different parts of Kolkata on Saturday over the alleged irregularities in the recruitments carried out by the West Bengal School Service Commission.

The Trinamool Congress leadership has tried to course correct by holding meetings with the protesters who have been agitating against the irregularities in the recruitment process.

On Friday evening, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee met a group of protesting job seekers and assured them that he would look into their demands. The situation, however, took a turn on Saturday with more and more groups of job seekers taking to the streets and demanding a meeting with Mr. Banerjee.

On Friday, another group of job seekers held a demonstration outside Mr. Banerjee's office. The police had to use force to remove the protesters from the venue on Saturday afternoon.

Job aspirants holding a demonstration at Mayo Road in Kolkata.

"Dear teaching applicants, Pl don't get provoked by distorted statements of some parties. @AITCofficial is fully with you all. Some persons have done wrong. Govt & party have taken strong steps," party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said on Twitter. As the Opposition parties raised questions on how Mr. Banerjee, who has no portfolio with the West Bengal government, can assure protesting students jobs, Mr. Ghosh said that there is nothing wrong in Mr. Banerjee trying to sort out the imbroglio.

The arrest of the former Minister Partha Chatterjee and the recovery of cash amounting to ₹50 crore in the scam has embarrassed the West Bengal government.

Congress plans massive stir on August 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress has drawn up an elaborate plan to protest against price rise and unemployment.

The party plans to march to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, and gherao the official residence of Narendra Modi and the Raj Bhavans in States.

"Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs will hold 'Chalo Rashtrapathi Bhavan', from Parliament to register our protest against price rise and unemployment," an internal note said.

"Taking our uncompromising protest against the record-breaking price rise and unemployment forward, the Congress has decided to observe massive nationwide protest on Friday, the 5th August," it added.

Party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal asked the the Pradesh Congress Committees to share the details of their plans.

"In the State capitals, the PCCs shall organise a massive 'Raj Bhavan Gherao' and all the MLAs, MLCs, ex-MPs and senior leaders of the State shall participate and court mass arrest," the note read.

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No.	Tender ID	Items
1.	2022_KMML_500589_1	For the supply of Uniform Cloths(Suiting -1720 MR and shirting -3087 MR) for KMML Direct Contract Workers(DCW)
Chavara 30.07.2022		sd/-DGM(Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
2.	2022_KMML_494540_1	Global Tender for Design, Manufacturing, Supply & Commissioning support of fully automatic arm turning TiO2 Pigment Stretch Wrapping Machine at U-400 of KMML, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India
Chavara 30.07.2022		sd/-HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

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Tender Notice No. 11-CECNMS-2022-E-277620 dated 28-07-2022
Tender Notice No. 13-CECNMS-2022-E-288793 dated 28-07-2022
Tender Notice No. 14-CECNMS-2022-E-286768 dated 28-07-2022
Tender Notice No. 15-CECNMS-2022-E-233438 dated 29-07-2022

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK

Proposed New line between Nagapattinam and Thiruturaipundi via Thirukuvalai — Proposed Construction of Major Bridges (Balance works part substructure and complete super structure) across rivers Kaduvaiyar 5x12.20m PSC I girder at Ch.9538.0 Pandavaiyar 3x12.20m PSC U girder atCh.16424.0 and Vellaiyar 4x12.20m PSC U girder at ch.17545.0 (TWO PACKET SYSTEM)

Proposed New BG Line between Chinnasalem and Kallakurichi - Proposed Construction of Road Over Bridges at Ch:4869, Ch:8786 and Ch:14586 with PSC Y girder and RS Panel wall approaches.(TWO PACKET SYSTEM)

Final Location Survey for 3rd and 4th line between Attipattu and Gummidipundi (25.20 Km.)

MAS-AJJ Section: Proposed Construction of Pedestrian Subway of size 5.0m x 2.75m (inner dimension) at Kadambathur Yard.

Cash Value (Rupees)	Bid Security/ EMD (Rupees)	Period of Completion in months	Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs
123950703.25	769800.00	12	22-08-2022
194286956.35	1121400.00	18	22-08-2022
4822366.86	96500.00	6	22-08-2022
56133454.40	430700.00	12	22-08-2022

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VACANCY NOTIFICATION

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management Thanjavur - (NIFTEM-T) is inviting applications from the eligible applicants for the following contractual posts.

S.No	Name of the Post	No.of Post
1	**Assistant Account Officer (Consultant) on contractual basis**	01
2	**Estate Officer (Consultant) on contractual basis**	01
3	**Lady Medical Doctor (Part-Time) on Contractual Basis**	01

For application format, eligibility criteria, emoluments and terms & conditions, visit our website: **www.niftem-t.ac.in**

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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal mode from the contractors/ agencies that are reputed individuals/ Company and having past experience, for the following works at RTPS.

1) **KPCL/2022-23/PM/WORK_INDENT 12529/CALL-2** for Repair and Re-conditioning of Stacker cum Reclaimer Boom Luffing Operation Hydraulic Cylinders in CHP2. Approx. amount put tender (incl. of GST): **Rs. 1947000/-**, EMD: **Rs. 49000/-**.

2) **KPCL/2022-23/PM/WORK_INDENT 12531/CALL-2** for Supply, Repair and Re-conditioning of wet Type Dust extraction systems installed at Primary Crusher, Secondary Crusher & Wagon tippler area of CHP. Approx. amount put to tender (incl. of GST): **Rs. 7176399/-**, EMD: **Rs. 143500/-**. Last date for submission of completed tender: **08.08.2022 up to 17.30** Hrs. Opening of Technical Bid: **10.08.2022 at 9.30 Hrs.** Opening of Price bids of pre qualified tenderer: **10.08.2022 at 15.30 Hrs.** The detailed notification in e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP) M-2**, KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584 170, Raichur Dist. Karnataka. Mobile: 82775 02856.

Bengal Police seize cash from Jamtara MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Close on the heels of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) recovering about ₹50 crore from separate probes in Kolkata, the West Bengal Police on Saturday, apprehended a vehicle containing cash close to ₹50 lakh. The counting of currency notes was on, police officials said.

Sources said that the vehicle belonged to Jamtara MLA Irfan Ansari, who represents the Congress. Mr. Ansari and two other party MLAs from Jharkhand, Rajesh Kachhap and Naman Bixal, were in the car. The three MLAs have been detained by the Howrah City Police. Mr. Kachhap is a Congress MLA from the Khijri Assembly Constituency and Mr. Bixal represents the Kongari Assembly constituency.

Jharkhand shares its borders with West Bengal and Jamtara is the one of the closest constituencies to the State. The State is ruled by an alliance of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Congress.

New e-waste rules threaten jobs, collection network

System involving producer responsibility organisations dismantled; responsibility of recycling now with a handful of authorised recyclers

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A proposed framework by the Centre for regulating e-waste in India has upset a key link of India's electronic waste collection system and threatens the livelihood of thousands of people.

Electronic waste, or electronic goods that are past their productive life and old parts, is largely handled by India's vast informal sector.

Spent goods are dismantled and viable working parts refurbished, with the rest making their way into chemical dismantling units. Many of these units are run out of unregulated sweatshops that employ child labour and hazardous extraction techniques. This electronic detritus contaminates soil and aggravates plastic pollution.

To address all of this, the Environment Ministry brought the E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016, which introduced a system of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) compelling makers of electronic goods to ensure a proportion of the goods they sold every year was recycled. They are expected to maintain records annually demonstrating this. Most companies however did not maintain an in-house unit in charge of recycling and this gave rise to a network of government-registered companies, called producer responsibility organisations (PRO) which acted as an intermediary between manufacturers of electronic goods and formal recycling units and were technologically equipped to recycle end-of-life electronic goods safely and efficiently.

Parallel system: E-waste collected by rag pickers at a scrap shop in Delhi. •R.V. MOORTHY

Certified proof

The PROs typically bid for contracts from companies and arrange for specified quantities of goods to be recycled and provide companies certified proof of recycling that they then maintain as part of their records. Several PROs work on consumer awareness and enable a supply chain for recycled goods.

As of March, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has registered 74 PROs and 468 authorised dismantlers, which have a collective recycling capacity of about 1.3 million tonnes.

The Ministry estimated 7.7 lakh tonnes of e-waste to have been generated in 2018-19 and around one million tonnes in 2019-20 of which only a fifth (about 22% in both years) has been confirmed to be "dismantled and recycled".

This May, the Ministry issued a draft notification that does away with the PROs and dismantlers and vests all responsibility of recycling with authorised recyclers, only a handful of which exist in India.

Recyclers will source a quantity of waste, recycle them and generate electronic certificates.

Companies can buy these certificates equivalent to their annual committed target and thus do not have to be involved with engaging the PROs and dismantlers. This update to the 2016 e-waste rules is in draft mode and open to public comment until July 31.

Several PROs have mailed their objections to the Ministry arguing that dismantling a fledgling system was detrimental to the future of e-waste management in India.

"On one hand, the number of categories of e-waste has been increased from 21 to 95 and on the other, PROs and dismantlers have been done away with. Nobody knows what is the trigger for such a move," said Shobha Raghavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAAHAS Zero Waste, a Bengaluru-based PRO.

Under the new rules, recyclers will likely establish their own supply chains, and companies will no longer bear any responsibility for ensuring that their product is recycled.

Five years of investing and putting in place a system to collect and channel waste were under threat as 25,000 to 30,000 people were employed in this sector, Ms. Raghavan said.

"The PROs provide checks and balances and this is necessary because in the current system, there is a lot of unauthorised recycling and we are an important element in the chain to ensure verifiable recycling," said Pranshu Singhal of Karo Sambhav, a Delhi-based PRO.

The Centre has not explained its rationale for dismantling the existing system in its draft notification. Calls to officials in the Ministry were not returned.

However, one person in the Ministry, familiar with e-waste policy, on condition of anonymity, told *The Hindu* that a final policy was yet to emerge.

'Improve accountability'

The new rules, he said, would improve accountability because it would rely on an electronic management system that would track the material that went in for recycling with the output claimed by a recycler when they claimed GST (Goods and Services Tax) input credit. "Currently, the entire system is not remunerative for recyclers, which actually do the job of recycling. This current system incentivises them to invest in a dependable supply chain that will collect and recycle waste," he added. "The current system managed by PRO isn't always reliable as there have been several instances of double-counting (where the same articles recycled once for one company are credited into the account for multiple companies). He said that the CPCB was still testing such a system though it wouldn't automatically solve the problem of routing all electronic waste from informal channels to formal channels.

Mr. Singhal added that the proposed rules shifted responsibility for controlling e-waste away from producers of goods to recyclers. There were too few recyclers across India and predominant in the big cities and in the absence of dismantlers, goods would now have to travel greater distances to be recycled.

States fail to give Ministry details of elephant reserves

Data on jumbo population, threats and challenges sought

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The elephant range States across India have ignored an 18-month-old instruction from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to furnish information on their elephant reserves.

The Ministry, on January 12, 2021, wrote to the chief wildlife wardens of the Elephant Reserve States, to provide the details for the compilation of information on elephant reserves (ERs) by its Project Elephant Division.

The information sought included history and background of establishing the ERs; the date of notification of their notification; the area notified; and the number of circles, forest divisions, ranges, private or revenue land within the reserves.

Apart from the map of each ER, the States were asked to provide within January 30, 2022, the total population of elephants, threats, challenges and issues in these ERs, five-year data on human-elephant conflicts, and management interventions done by the forest departments, to conserve elephants.

Replying to an application filed by an Assam-based activist under the Right to Information Act, the Ministry said on July 27 that it was yet to receive any information on the ERs from these States.

Jumbo trail: India has 30 notified elephant reserves spread across 15 elephant range States. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Ramesh Pandey, the Inspector-General of Project Elephant in the Ministry, declined to say what the Ministry would do about the indifference of the Elephant Range States.

Wildlife Institute data

Data uploaded on the Wildlife Institute of India's website say the elephant population across 16 States in the country ranged between 27,785 and 31,368 in 2012.

While Karnataka had up to 7,458 elephants followed by Assam with 5,281, Maharashtra had only four.

India has 30 notified elephant reserves, spread across 15 Elephant Range States.

There are also 10 sites for the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme, mandated by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

The MIKE sites are Chirang-Ripu and Dihing-Patkai in Assam, Deomali in Arunachal Pradesh, Garo Hills in Meghalaya, Eastern Dooars in West Bengal, Mayurbhanj in Odisha, Shivalik in Uttarakhand, Mysore in Karnataka, Wayanad in Kerala and Nilgiri in Tamil Nadu.

Activists press for new anti-trafficking Bill

It will help in inter-State investigations and rehabilitation of survivors of different kinds of trafficking

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

On July 28, a 16-year-old-girl was rescued from Kolkata's Sonagachi area by a group of activists and the local police. The minor, who hails from Nepal, was produced before the Child Welfare Committee in the city and has been sent to a protection home in Kolkata.

This was one of the most challenging rescues, the activists involved said, pointing out that finding a minor in the country's largest red-light area of Sonagachi was like locating a needle in a haystack.

"We had some information and we took the help of the police and conducted raids on the premises. Though there were no arrests, we could rescue her. Hopefully, she will be able to return to her country," Kakuli Das, an activist with Gorabose Gram Bikash Kendra, an organisation working in South 24 Parganas district said.

Ms. Das said that in this year alone, she has been associated with seven other cases where women and girls from West Bengal were rescued from Maharashtra.

"The 2nd Court of Additional District Judge, Barasat gave 20 years imprisonment to four accused in trafficking and 10 years to two people who were associated with abetment to the crime," Public Prosecutor Shyamal Dutta said. Mr. Dutta said that more than the legal aspect, he had emphasised the social aspect of trafficking and had urged the court to look into the far-reaching implications if those committing crimes like trafficking is not punished. July 30 is observed as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons by the United Nations and activists like Ms. Das and advocates like Mr. Dutta is working round the year to combat the organised crime of trafficking in India.

Both Shyamal Dutta and Kakuli Das said that there is a strong need for more stringent laws to deal with the trafficking of persons. These developments are significant as The Trafficking In Persons (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2022 is listed for introduction and passing in the list of businesses for the Monsoon Session of the Parliament. Experts point out that new legislation will help survivors of different kinds of trafficking in terms of investigation of their cases, the functioning of AHTUs (Anti Human Trafficking Units), inter-State investigations and their rehabilitation. West Bengal, bordering Nepal and Bangladesh, remains a crucial State as far as trafficking of women and minor girls is concerned.

Industry status for tourism to benefit several sectors

Over 700 applications for issuance of entitlement certificates have been received in Rajasthan so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Following the industry status being accorded to the tourism and hospitality sector in Rajasthan, more sub-sectors of tourism are likely to get the benefit.

The power tariff and other taxes levied on tourism operators have become on a par with those charged for other industries, against the earlier requirement of payment, at much-higher commercial rates.

The State government's Tourism Department has received representations from half-a-dozen sub-sectors claiming that being an integral part of the tourism industry, they should be allowed to get the new benefits.

Legendary fete: A decorated camel during the Pushkar fair, one of the main tourist attractions in Rajasthan. •FILE PHOTO

According to the sources in the department, over 700 applications for issuance of entitlement certificates have been received so far.

The benefit of the industry sector has already been extended to as many as 24 categories of tourism units since the formal grant of the status on May 28.

The concessions as industry will bring a financial burden of ₹700 crore a year on the State exchequer.

Thrust sector

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced in his 2022-23 Budget speech in the State Assembly in February this year, that the tourism and hospitality sector would be granted industry status.

Tourism is also going to be projected as a thrust sector in the "Invest Rajasthan-2022" summit, scheduled to be held in Jaipur in October, this year.

Industries Minister Shakuntala Rawat said here on Saturday, that the grant of industry status to the tourism sector and the allocation of ₹1,000 crore for tourism development in the 2022-23 State Budget, would make Rajasthan a frontrunner in the sector, which brings a significant amount of revenue. "The Industries Department will work in tandem with the tourism sector. Rajasthan is taking steps to promote agro-tourism and rural tourism to attract domestic and foreign tourists," she said.

SUDOKU

6			1		5			
			4					
7	1			3		5		
	7			4	3		9	1
3								2
1	4		7	2			3	
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	2	3	6	7	9	5	8
9	7	5	8	2	1	4	3	6
8	3	6	5	4	9	7	1	2
3	2	9	6	8	4	5	7	1
5	6	1	9	7	2	8	4	3
4	8	7	1	5	3	2	6	9
2	5	3	7	1	8	6	9	4
6	9	4	2	3	5	1	8	7
7	1	8	4	9	6	3	2	5

Mending hearts and fences in scarred Kashmir Valley

I am investing in hope, says Upendra Kaul as he opened a state-of-the-art heart care centre in Pulwama to serve the poor

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Relations between Kashmiri Muslims and the Pandit community may have witnessed tense moments in the past three decades, and recently, some of them were victims of targeted killings in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to widespread fear in the minority community.

However, that did not deter Upendra Kaul, renowned cardiologist from the community, from winning the hearts of Muslims in even the remotest corners of the Union Territory.

On Saturday, Dr. Kaul opened the state-of-the-art Prasad Joo Khan Heart Centre for poor and needy patients at Hawal village in Pulwama. Alka Mittal, Chairman and Managing Director, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, inaugurated the facility.

Named after Dr. Kaul's grandfather, the centre will cater to the needs of the people of south Kashmir.

The Prasad Joo Khan Heart Centre in Pulwama's Hawal village was inaugurated on Saturday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"This project means coming back home. I am trying to give back to society I belong to by providing good heart care. I am investing in hope," Dr. Kaul told *The Hindu*.

Dr. Kaul, chairman and dean of academics and research at the Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Delhi, will attend to patients at the centre's outpatient department in Pulwama once a week, and meet them in Srinagar.

He hailed from Hawal before his father shifted to Delhi. The flat sections atop the highlands of Hawal were once home to 44 Kashmiri Pandit families. However, only one Pandit family, of Omkar Nath, was left behind after the rest migrated in the 1990s in the face of raging militancy.

On Saturday, local people accompanied Mr. Nath to the inauguration of the project. Many Pandits from the Hawal transit camp attended the event.

"It was not possible to realise the dream project without the help of local people," Dr. Kaul said.

Local support

In fact, several Muslim villagers in Hawal launched a signature campaign and wrote to Deputy Commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary "for allocation of government land to the Gauri Kaul Foundation, which has set up the centre, to building a heart centre".

The villagers fear that widening of a highway may result in the dismantling of the centre. "We the residents of villages – Hawal including Migrant Colony, Gaberpora, Kutchpora, other nearby and adjoining areas of the district demand that the son of soil, Padma Shri Dr. Kaul, cardiologist, a larger heart institute will be an ideal service for the people," the villagers' letter read.

Telemedicine centre

Dr. Kaul, who has been spending weekends in Kashmir since 2008 to see patients, set up a successful telemedicine centre in 2020 in the remote Machil area in Kupwara of north Kashmir, which remains cut off for more than three months due to snowfall.

"Any patient who visits the telemedicine centre undergoes basic tests and the reports are sent to me immediately online. I advise the staff about the line of treatment sitting in Delhi. Twenty to 25 patients are treated for heart ailments in Machil every month," Dr. Kaul said.

The specialist also has the distinction of operating on separatist leaders in the past, including Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Shabir Shah, Abdul Gani Lone, and Yasin Malik.

"When Malik was brought to the AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) in the 1990s from jail to replace his heart valve, I signed the consent form ahead of the surgery. He showed full faith in me," Dr. Kaul recalled.

On the recent targeted violence against the minority community, Dr. Kaul said, "Of course, my relatives and family are scared. I am not fearful of anything. I have engaged with a different Kashmir where patients, after recovering, invited me home in far-off places like Shopian. I was treated like a groom. People would line up to welcome me. That can only happen in Kashmir."

China is holding military drill near Taiwan

The 'live-fire exercises' come ahead of U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi's possible visit to the island

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

China said it was conducting military exercises on Saturday off its coast opposite Taiwan after warning Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the U.S. House of Representatives to scrap possible plans to visit the island democracy, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, was conducting "live-fire exercises" near the Pingtan islands off Fujian province from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said. The Maritime Safety Administration warned ships to avoid the area.

Trouble brewing: China claims Taiwan as its own territory and says it has no right to conduct foreign relations. •REUTERS

Such exercises usually involve artillery. The one-sentence announcement gave no indication whether Saturday's exercise would include missiles, fighter planes or other weapons.

Ms. Pelosi, who would be the highest-ranking American elected official to visit Taiwan since 1997, has yet to confirm whether she will go. President Xi Jinping warned his U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden, in a phone call on Thursday against "external interference" in Beijing's dealings with the island.

China says Taiwan has no right to conduct foreign relations. It sees visits by American officials as encouragement for the island to make its decades-old de facto independence official.

The Ministry of Defence warned Washington this week not to allow Ms. Pelosi, who is Mr. Biden's equal in rank as leader of one of three branches of government, to visit Taiwan.

A spokesman said the PLA would take unspecified "strong measures" to stop pro-independence activity.

Leadership question

The PLA has flown growing numbers of fighter planes and bombers near Taiwan and has in the past fired missiles into shipping lanes to the island.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war that ended with a communist victory on the mainland.

The two governments say they are one country but disagree over which is entitled to national leadership. They have no official relations but are closely linked by billions of dollars in trade and investment.

Sri Lanka-IMF deal put off till Sept: President

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President said on Saturday that an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help pull the bankrupt nation out of its economic crisis has been pushed back to September because of unrest over the past weeks.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, in his first speech since he was elected by Parliament on July 20, said even though he had aimed to reach an agreement by early August, it has now been pushed back by a month. Sri Lanka owes $51 billion in foreign debt, of which $28 billion must be paid by 2027.

Pope says he will slow down or retire

He says Canada trip was a 'bit of a test'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE

Pope Francis on Saturday acknowledged that he can no longer travel like he used to because of his strained knee ligaments, saying his weeklong Canadian pilgrimage was "a bit of a test" that showed he needs to slow down and one day possibly retire.

Pope Francis

Speaking to reporters, the 85-year-old Pope stressed that he hadn't thought about resigning but said "the door is open" and there was nothing wrong with a Pope stepping down.

"It's not strange. It's not a catastrophe. You can change the Pope," he said while sitting in an aeroplane wheelchair during a 45-minute news conference.

Pope said that while he hadn't considered resigning until now, he realises he has to at least slow down. "I think at my age and with these limitations, I have to save (my energy) to be able to serve the church, or on the contrary, think about the possibility of stepping aside," he said.

Pope was peppered with questions about the future of his Pontificate following the first trip in which he used a wheelchair, walker and cane to get around, sharply limiting his programme and ability to mingle with crowds.

He strained his right knee ligaments earlier this year and continuing laser and magnetic therapy forced him to cancel a trip to Africa that was scheduled for the first week of July.

Pope ruled out having surgery on his knee, saying it would not necessarily help and noting "there are still traces" from the effects of having undergone more than six hours of anesthesia in July 2021 to remove 33 cm of his large intestine.

"I'll try to continue to do the trips and be close to people because I think it's a way of servicing, being close. But more than this, I can't say," he said on Saturday.

In other comments aboard the papal plane, Pope said, "Agreed that the attempt to eliminate indigenous culture in Canada through a church-run residential school system amounted to a cultural "genocide."

Pope said he didn't use the term during his Canada trip because it didn't come to mind. Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission determined in 2015 that the forced removal of indigenous children from their homes and placement in church-run residential schools to assimilate them into Christian, Canadian constituted a "cultural genocide."

"It's true I didn't use the word because it didn't come to mind, but I described genocide, no?" Pope said. "I apologised, I asked forgiveness for this work, which was genocide." Suggested he was not opposed to a development of Catholic doctrine on the use of contraception. Church teaching prohibits artificial contraception.

Russia suspends gas supply to Latvia

Terms of purchase violated: Gazprom

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russian energy giant Gazprom on Saturday suspended gas supplies to Latvia, a day after a jail holding Ukrainian prisoners of war was bombed leaving scores dead.

"Today, Gazprom suspended its gas supplies to Latvia... due to violations of the conditions" of purchase, the company said on Telegram.

"Today, Gazprom suspended its gas supplies to Latvia... due to violations of the conditions" of purchase, the company said on Telegram.

The Russian state-run company had earlier announced it would choke supply to 33 million cubic m a day – half the amount it has been delivering since service resumed last week after 10 days of maintenance work.

European Union states have accused Russia of squeezing supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions over Moscow's intervention in Ukraine.

Gazprom cited the halted operation of one of the last two operating turbines for the pipeline due to the "technical condition of the engine".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has blamed the European Union's sanctions for the limited supply of gas in the region.

The EU this week agreed a plan to reduce gas consumption in solidarity with Germany, where the Nord Stream pipeline runs to, warning of Russian "blackmail".

Russian strikes pummel Ukrainian cities

Mykolaiv under fire as Ukraine seeks to retake neighbouring Kherson region

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Fresh Russian strikes hit towns and cities across Ukraine's sprawling front line, killing at least one person in the south and hitting a school in Kharkiv, officials said on Saturday.

The Mayor of the southern city of Mykolaiv – close to where Ukrainian troops are seeking to stage a counter-offensive – said one person was killed when rockets pounded two residential districts overnight.

Six others were wounded in the strikes, which left "windows and doors broken, and balconies destroyed", Mayor Oleksandr Sienkevych wrote on Telegram.

In recent weeks Mykolaiv has been hit almost daily as Ukrainian troops seek to push into the neighbouring Kherson region. Seven people were killed on Friday in an attack near a bus stop.

A firefighter extinguishing a fire at a vocational school building in Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Saturday. •AFP

The Ukrainian presidency said its forces had carried out strikes on Russian military warehouses and positions behind the lines in Kherson region.

In Ukraine's second city of Kharkiv, rockets from an S-300 surface-to-air system destroyed part of an educational facility in a strike in the early hours of Saturday, local authorities said.

Firemen extinguished a blaze caused by the fire and there were no reports of casualties, the authorities said.

Kharkiv, close to the Russian border in northeast Ukraine, has also been subjected to frequent bombardment by Moscow's forces stationed nearby.

The Governor of the eastern Donetsk region, where Moscow is focusing the brunt of its offensive, said that six civilians were killed and 15 wounded by strikes on Friday.

Ukrainian officials on Saturday denounced a call by Russia's Embassy in Britain for fighters from the Azov regiment to face a "humiliating" execution.

The Russian tweet came as Moscow and Kyiv traded blame over a strike on a jail holding Ukrainian prisoners of war in Russian-controlled territory that killed around 50 people, reportedly including members of the Azov regiment.

"Azov militants deserve execution, but death not by firing squad but by hanging, because they're not real soldiers. They deserve a humiliating death," Moscow's diplomatic mission wrote in an overnight Tweet.

Protesters occupy Iraq Parliament

Supporters of cleric Sadr oppose Mohammed Shia al-Sudani's candidacy for PM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Supporters of powerful Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr penetrated Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone on Saturday, occupying Parliament with no plan to leave.

In a deepening political crisis, it is the second time in days that Sadr supporters have forced their way in to the legislative chamber, months after elections that failed to lead to formation of a government.

"The demonstrators announce a sit-in until further notice," Sadr's movement said in a brief statement.

Supporters of Sadr, who once led a militia against U.S. and Iraqi government forces, oppose the recently announced candidacy of Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, a pro-Iran bloc's pick for Prime Minister.

Civil strife: Supporters of cleric Moqtada Sadr inside Iraq's Parliament in Baghdad on Saturday. •AFP

"We don't want Mr. Sudani," said one protester, Sattar al-Aliawi, 47, in the Parliamentary gardens.

The civil servant said they were protesting "a corrupt and incapable government" and would "sleep here".

He added: "The people totally refuse the parties that have governed the country for 18 years," since a U.S.-led invasion toppled dictator Saddam Hussein.

Demonstrators inside the legislature waved Iraqi flags and pictures of the cleric.

They crowded the chamber where some sat at lawmakers' desks while others milled about, raising their mobile phones to film the occupation.

They entered after thousands of protesters had massed at the end of a bridge leading to the Green Zone before dozens pulled down concrete barriers protecting it and ran inside, an AFP photographer reported.

Security forces had fired tear gas and water cannon near an entrance to the district, also home to foreign embassies and other government buildings.

Sadr's bloc emerged from elections in October as the biggest parliamentary faction, but was still far short of a majority.

The mercurial Sadr, long a player in the country's politics, has a devoted following of millions among the country's majority Shiite population.

Iran arrests Swede for alleged spying

REUTERS
TEHRAN

Iran's Intelligence Ministry on Saturday said that it had arrested a Swedish citizen on espionage charges, the official IRNA news agency reported, without naming the detained person.

"The intelligence ministry announced that a citizen of the Kingdom of Sweden was arrested on espionage charges," IRNA quoted a Ministry statement. It did not say when the arrest was made.

"The suspect had been under surveillance by the intelligence ministry during several previous trips to Iran because of (their) suspicious behaviour and contacts ... for visiting cities that were entirely outside of tourist destinations," the Ministry added.

Australian PM unveils draft indigenous recognition vote

Referendum a step to enshrine their voice in Parliament

REUTERS
SYDNEY

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Saturday unveiled the wording of a draft referendum question as part of moves to enshrine an indigenous voice in Parliament.

The government is seeking a referendum, which is necessary to make changes to the Constitution, on recognising indigenous minorities in the Constitution and requiring governments to consult Aboriginal people on decisions that impact their lives.

The change is a commitment Mr. Albanese's centre-left Labor Party took to May's general election, where it defeated the conservative Liberal-National coalition. The coalition had wanted to establish indigenous representation in Parliament through legislation.

Anthony Albanese

Mr. Albanese, who revealed the plan in a speech at an indigenous festival in remote Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory, proposed the draft referendum question: "Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?"

The Prime Minister suggested three sentences be added to the Constitution if the referendum succeeds, enabling the voice to be set-up. "I ask all Australians of goodwill to engage on this," he said.

Opposition spokesperson for indigenous Australians, Julian Leeser, called the move a "positive step".

Australia's Constitution makes no reference to indigenous people, whose leaders have toiled for generations to win recognition for injustices suffered since European colonisation in the 1700s.

THE HINDU GROUP

CATCH ALL THE ACTION

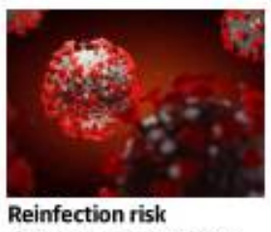
While the cerebral masters from 187 countries battle on the shores of Bay of Bengal to be the best in chess, India's Commonwealth Games athletes will look to keep the competition at bay to climb the medal charts in Birmingham.
It's a double delight from Sportstar with an exclusive column from Viswanathan Anand, an introduction to the strong Indian Chess Olympiad team, stories of hope and determination from the CWG-bound athletes and the right dose of nostalgia and numbers that matter.

To subscribe to Sportstar, visit www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe or scan the QR code

SPORTSTAR

SNAPSHOTS

Molecular motor
Physicists have built a molecular-scale motor entirely from DNA strands, and used it to store energy by winding up a DNA 'spring'. It is not the first DNA nanomotor, but the first to actually perform measurable mechanical work.



Reinfection risk
The Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of SARS-CoV-2 have proven to be better at evading people's immune defences than all of their predecessors. But data from Qatar suggest that previous infection with Alpha, Beta or Delta offers some protection against reinfection with BA.4 or BA.5.

Immunisation drops
The pandemic has triggered the largest drop in childhood vaccinations in 30 years. Last year, 25 million children missed immunisations against infections such as measles, increasing the risk of disease. Higher-income countries saw a slight decrease — from 95% in 2019 to 94% in 2021.

Focus on oil
Areas of one of the largest old-growth rainforests on Earth and the Virunga National Park could be auctioned off for oil drilling. The Democratic Republic of Congo says the about-face is necessary to support its financial stability.

Endangered species
The monarch butterfly is now listed as endangered. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has added it to its 'red list' for the first time; estimates suggest that its population in North America has declined by up to 72% in the past ten years.

Two monkeypox cases in India not linked to Europe

The genetic sequences of monkeypox virus strongly suggested that there were two distinct monkeypox outbreaks

R. PRASAD

Genome sequences of the first two imported cases of monkeypox detected in Kerala clearly show that they belong to a small cluster – A2 – that was very different from the one that was first detected in the U.K. on May 6 this year and has since spread to more than 75 countries. The genomes from the major outbreak of monkeypox cases in Europe and the rest of the world belong to the B1 lineage.

The genomes of the virus collected from the first two cases in Kerala were sequenced by ICMR's nodal lab, National Institute of Virology, Pune and deposited without delay in the global database GISAID.

Two distinct outbreaks

In the first week of June, the CDC found that three of the 10 genomes sequenced from viruses collected in the U.S. were different from the viruses sequenced in Europe. The genetic sequences of monkeypox cases strongly suggested that there were two distinct monkeypox outbreaks outside the endemic countries in Africa. The two distinct clusters indicated that human-to-human transmission outside Africa was taking place for a longer time than what was assumed initially. The small cluster predominantly seen in the U.S., Thailand and now in India is the A2 cluster.

All the three imported cases detected in Kerala were in men who had arrived from the Middle East. Writing in *STAT*, Helen Branswell noted that the three genomes from the viruses collected in the U.S. that belonged to the A2 cluster were in people who had got infected from different parts of the globe – one in Nigeria, one elsewhere in West Africa, and the third in either the Middle East or East Africa.

Based on the wide geographical spread of the virus belonging to the A2 cluster, Inger Damon, director of CDC's division of high-consequence pathogens and pathology told *STAT* that the virus has been silently spreading outside the endemic countries for a longer time.

While all the three imported cases detected in Kerala were in people who had arrived from the Middle East, some of the cases detected elsewhere and falling in this cluster too are from people who have a travel history to Middle East or East Africa.

Superspreader events

The large outbreak that began in Europe in early May this year and since grown to over 21,000 cases globally has been spreading primarily through human-to-human transmission. The sustained transmission among humans has predominantly been among men who have sex with men (MSM) and had spread across Europe in a matter of few days due to two superspreader events. The small A2 cluster is starkly different from the large B1 cluster that represents the virus that began spreading in Europe.

According to Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior scientist at the Delhi-based Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), the small A2 cluster containing very few genomes and dating back to July 2021 does not show signs of being spread by any superspreader event.

"The earliest sample in the cluster from the U.S. is indeed from 2021 suggesting the virus has been in circulation for quite some time, and earlier than the European events," Dr. Scaria tweeted.

"The A2 seems to have a quite distinct origin and is unrelated to the large outbreak in Europe," Dr. Scaria told *The Hindu*. "The A2 cluster has a long tail suggesting that it originated quite some time ago. The virus belonging to the A2 cluster was possibly spreading silently. But there are no intermediate genomes [sequenced at regular and short intervals between July 2021 and early June 2022] available, though."

Considering that the A2 cluster found in the U.S. and now in India is very small with only a handful of genomes, it is possible that the spread of the virus belonging to the A2 cluster was not present in the MSM network; the B1 lineage is predominantly found in the MSM networks. It is based on the premise that had A2 cluster also been found in the MSM networks, then the number of people infected with the virus of A2 cluster and the geographical spread would have been comparable with the B1 lineage.

Dr. Scaria, however, cautions about drawing such conclusions based on a few samples sequenced. "The A2 cluster could have been found in the MSM networks but wouldn't have spread as widely as the B1 lineage due to the absence of any superspreader events," he says. "It is too early to draw any conclusions as we don't have sufficient information from genome sequences."

The U.S. leading in cases

As of July 28, 4,907 monkeypox cases have been detected in the U.S., by far the highest number for any country. And 37 countries in Europe have altogether reported 13,043 cases of monkeypox as of July 26.

Based on the results of a case series in the U.K. published in *The BMJ* on July 28, nearly 99% of cases are restricted to the MSM networks with sexual contact with an infected person being the prime driver of virus spread. And a significant proportion of cases are people with HIV.

"Although the outbreak is concentrated in MSM at this time, as case numbers increase, we will see cases in other demographic groups. There have been cases in children and women albeit few comparatively so far. This is why it is so important to act quickly to contain this," Dr. Boghuma Titanji from the Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, tweeted. That said, there has so far not been any case of onward transmission among people outside the MSM networks.

Arguing that monkeypox virus is not highly transmissible compared with SARS-CoV-2 virus and the fact that it requires close, intimate contact to spread from one person to person, Dr. Francois Balloux from the UCL Genetics Institute tweeted that the virus can only maintain itself in demographics where people have many sexual partners, such as MSM networks.

"Monkeypox virus is not a pathogen that has the potential to become an STD in the heterosexual population. The reason is that those infected can pass it on effectively to others for no longer than about four weeks, and afterwards clear it, and become essentially immune for life," he tweeted.

However, Dr. Titanji disagrees. "I do not agree that transmission facilitated through sex cannot happen in the heterosexual population. It certainly can and is probably happening though in may not be as sustained as in more dense sexual networks which have higher numbers of contacts," she tweeted.

Increasing risk

While scientists debate whether the virus can spread in the heterosexual population and to what extent, it is abundantly clear that longer the virus continues to circulate and infect a greater number of people, the virus will gain the ability to become more transmissible and evolve to spread more easily through multiple routes.

Two monkeypox
clusters found outside Africa
A smaller number of cases fall in a cluster different from the one in Europe
1 A small cluster named A2 is predominantly seen in the U.S., Thailand, and now in India
2 Monkeypox virus responsible for the large outbreaks in Europe and elsewhere belongs to the B1 lineage
3 All the three imported cases detected in Kerala and three cases belonging to the A2 cluster in the U.S. are in people with a travel history to Middle East
4 Monkeypox virus belonging to the A2 cluster virus has been silently spreading outside the endemic countries for a longer time than speculated
5 The A2 cluster dating back to July 2021 does not show signs of being transmitted by superspreader events
6 As of July 28, 4,907 monkeypox cases have been detected in the U.S., by far the highest number in the world
7 Thirty-seven countries in Europe have altogether reported 13,043 cases of monkeypox as of July 26
8 Monkeypox virus does not currently seem to have the potential to become an STD in the heterosexual population
9 Transmission in the heterosexual population may not be as sustained as in the MSM networks, which have higher number of contacts
The two clusters suggest prolonged human-to-human transmission outside Africa

Invasive frog and snake dent world economy

They caused crop damage, says study

REUTERS

Two invasive species, the American bullfrog and the brown tree snake, cost the world an estimated $16 billion between 1986 and 2020, by causing problems ranging from crop damage to power outages, according to a study published in *Scientific Reports*.

The brown-and-green frog, known as *lithobates catesbeianus* and weighs over two pounds (0.9 kg), had the greatest impact in Europe, according to research published in *Scientific Reports*.

The brown tree snake, known as *boiga irregularis*, has multiplied uncontrollably on Pacific islands including Guam and the Mariana Islands, where the species was introduced by the U.S. troops in World War II, said Ismael Soto, the study's lead researcher.

The snakes have, at times, been so abundant that they caused power outages by crawling on electrical equipment, he said. This signals the need for investment controlling global transport of invasive species to avoid paying for mitigation after the invasions occur, he added.

"We propose continuously updating the black list of forbidden species for trade," Mr. Soto told *Reuters*.

Culprit: American bullfrogs made the greatest impact in Europe. •REUTERS

COVID-19 reinfection common with BA.5 variant

SARS-CoV-2 spike protein interacts with other proteins in cardiac myocytes to cause inflammation

REUTERS

Compared with the earlier Omicron BA.2 subvariant, currently dominant Omicron BA.5 is linked with higher odds of causing a second SARS-COV-2 infection regardless of vaccination status, a study from Portugal suggests.

From late April this year to early June, researchers studied 15,396 adults infected with the BA.2 variant and 12,306 infected with BA.5. The vaccines and boosters were equally effective against both sublineages, according to a report posted on medRxiv ahead of peer review.

However, 10% of BA.5 cases were reinfections, compared to 5.6% of BA.2 cases, which suggests a reduction in protection conferred by previous infection against BA.5 compared to BA.2, the researchers said. Moreover, the vaccines appeared to be less effective in reducing the risk of severe outcomes for BA.5 compared with BA.2.

A drop: Vaccines appear to be less effective in reducing the risk of outcomes for BA.5 compared with BA.2. •VIJAY SONEJI

"Among those infected with BA.5, booster vaccination was associated with 77% and 88% reduction in risk of COVID-19 hospitalisation and death, respectively, while higher risk reduction was found for BA.2 cases, with 93% and 94%, respectively," the researchers wrote.

While "COVID-19 booster vaccination still offers substantial protection against severe outcomes following BA.5 infection," they said, their findings provide "evidence to adjust public health measures during the BA.5 surge."

Damage to heart cells

The spike protein on its surface that SARS-CoV-2 uses to break into heart muscle cells also triggers a damaging attack from the immune system, according to new research.

The SARS-CoV-2 spike protein interacts with other proteins in cardiac myocytes to cause inflammation, researchers said in a presentation at the American Heart Association's Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Scientific Sessions 2022.

In experiments with mice hearts, comparing the effects of SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins and spike proteins from a different and relatively harmless coronavirus, the researchers found that only the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein caused heart dysfunction, enlargement, and inflammation.

They found that in infected heart muscle cells, only SARS-CoV-2 spike interacted with the so-called TLR4 proteins (Toll-like receptor-4) that recognise invaders and trigger inflammatory responses. In a deceased patient with COVID-19 inflammation, the researchers found the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and TLR4 protein in both heart muscle cells and other cell types. Both were absent in a biopsy of a healthy human heart.

"This means that once the heart is infected with SARS-CoV-2, it will activate the TLR4 signalling," Zhiqiang Lin of the Masonic Medical Research Institute in Utica, New York, said in a statement. "We provided direct evidence that spike protein is toxic to the heart muscle cells and narrowed down the underlying mechanism as spike protein directly inflames the heart muscle cells," he added.

Omicron infections

A new monoclonal antibody combination can prevent and treat Omicron infections in monkeys, researchers reported in *Nature Microbiology*.

The antibodies, called P2G3 and P5C3, recognise regions of the spike protein the SARS-CoV-2 virus uses to enter cells. "P5C3 alone can block all SARS-CoV-2 variants that had dominated the pandemic up to Omicron BA.2," said Dr. Didier Trono of the Swiss Institute of Technology in Lausanne."

One step closer to precision cancer therapies

Research found a combination of molecules that can be used for developing novel anti-cancer therapeutics

BENU BRATA DAS

Our work over the last decade has helped identify a new target for killing cancer cells, opening the door for potential new therapy. The target pathway is utilised by cancer cells to repair DNA double-stranded break repair and was published recently in the journal *Cell Reports*.

DNA replication

Topoisomerase 1-targeted chemotherapy is one of the mainstays of treating cancer cells. Currently-used anticancer drugs (Camptothecin, Topotecan and Irinotecan) target a molecule (the enzyme Topoisomerase 1 or Top1) involved in DNA replication. While DNA replication is essential to cell division, runaway replication characterises cancer.

However, we found that cancer cells sometimes develop resistance to Topoisomerase 1-targeted chemotherapy through their intrinsic DNA repair toolbox. Based on these insights, a combination of molecules (the protein PRMT5, and the enzyme TDP1) can be used as potential targets for developing novel anti-cancer therapeutics, thus taking us a step closer to developing precision medicine approaches for cancer patients.

Top1, an enzyme in all higher eukaryotes, is essentially responsible for relaxing DNA as it coils during replication (and transcription). The drugs directed at this pathway disrupt the activity of Top1 by changing its shape and rendering it ineffective. While these result in a significant amount of cell death, including cancer cells, natural cellular repair mechanisms (using TDP1) often kick in and counteract the action of the drug.

We developed CRISPR-mediated knock-out cells where the PRMT5 (Protein arginine methyltransferase 5) enzyme in the cells is no longer present. When challenged with a low dosage of camptothecin which is below the tolera-

Positive results: IAC5 team found that targeting a particular enzyme with novel drugs together with existing drugs can kill cancer cells more effectively. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion levels used in chemotherapy, we found that the cancer cytotoxicity increased markedly. This helped confirm that PRMT5 deficiency in the cell is the target of the camptothecin.

Drugs combination

The enzyme PRMT5 is broadly overexpressed in many cancer cells. Therefore, targeting the PRMT5 enzyme with drugs in combination with low dosage camptothecin will help in killing cancer cells more effectively.

The PRMT5 enzyme, which is found in abundance in cancer cells, directly regulates the natural cellular repair mechanisms through chemical finetuning. This results in repairing of DNA breaks generated by camptothecin and thus, resistance to chemotherapy.

In the last decade, our lab has been investigating DNA repair pathways that offer resistance to camptothecin and its clinical derivatives. The objective was to uncover new avenues to kill cancer cells in target-based chemotherapy or personalised chemotherapy using breast and ovarian cancer. We have been using mouse models to further test the combination drug therapy using in vivo tumours.

Major breakthrough

In 2018, we achieved a breakthrough with the identification of the DNA repair proteins TDP1 (Tyrosyl DNA phosphodiesterase 1) and PRMT5 binding which was published in *Nucleic Acids Research*. But at that time, we did not understand the mechanism of action. Continuous research in the last five years helped unravel the mechanism in detail and the implications of a combinatorial chemotherapy.

PRMT5 inhibitor, GSK3326595, has been approved as a monotherapy in phase II clinical trials of cancer. Therefore, our latest work provides a new rationale for using the combination of Top1-PRMT5 inhibitors in tumorigenesis.

A personalised approach

Since the rate of proliferation is higher in the case of cancer cells, the chances of combination drug uptake are higher. The personalised approach of combinatorial chemotherapy will effectively kill cancer cells bypassing induced chemoresistance.

More studies are needed to confirm the lab results, and the end goal is to extend the basic research to human clinical trials to assess the therapeutic potential.

(Benu Brata Das is Professor at the School of Biological Sciences, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.)

Question Corner

Plesiosaurs reptiles

Were Plesiosaurs reptiles restricted to the marine environment?

Fossils of small plesiosaurs, long-necked marine reptiles from the age of dinosaurs, first found in 1823, have been found in a 100-million-year-old river system that is now Morocco's Sahara Desert. This discovery suggests some species of plesiosaur, traditionally thought to be sea creatures, may have lived in freshwater.

Now, scientists from the University of Bath and University of Portsmouth in the U.K., and Université Hassan II in Morocco, have reported small plesiosaurs from a Cretaceous-aged River in Africa.

The fossils include bones and teeth from three-metre-long adults and an arm bone from a 1.5-metre-long baby. They hint that these creatures routinely lived and fed in freshwater.

The study by University of Bath and University of Portsmouth in the U.K., and Université Hassan II in Morocco found that plesiosaurs were adapted to tolerate freshwater, possibly even spending their lives there.

The scientists say it implies that plesiosaurs were eating the same food – chipping their teeth on the armoured fish that lived in the river. This hints that they spent a lot of time in the river, rather than being occasional visitors. A more likely possibility is that the plesiosaurs were able to tolerate fresh and salt water, like some whales, such as the beluga whale.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Monkeypox vaccine

What type of vaccine will work against a viral zoonotic disease? How is India gearing up to this challenge?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: With the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring monkeypox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and cases rising globally to around 19,179 in 78 countries as of July 27, governments around the world are initiating steps towards developing or even sourcing a vaccine against monkeypox.

Are there vaccines for monkeypox?

■ The monkeypox virus belongs to a family of viruses called orthopoxviruses, which is different from that of the coronaviruses. According to the WHO, it is a viral zoonosis – a virus transmitted to humans from animals – with symptoms similar, but less severe to smallpox. It is also an enveloped double-stranded DNA virus, unlike the RNA virus, that makes it far more stable and less prone to rapid mutations. There are two distinct genetic clades of the monkeypox virus: the central African (Congo Basin) clade and the West African clade. The Congo Basin clade has historically caused more severe disease and was thought to be more transmissible.

There is yet no dedicated monkeypox vaccine, but vaccinations against smallpox was found to be 85% effective in preventing smallpox, a disease eradicated in 1980. In 2019, the United States Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), approved the JYNNEOS vaccine for the prevention of smallpox, monkeypox and other diseases caused by orthopoxviruses, including vaccinia virus, in adults 18 years of age and older and categorised as having a "high risk of infection." These include contacts of those who have been confirmed to have contracted a monkeypox infection, sexual partners (with contact within previous two weeks) of those confirmed with an infection and those whose immune systems are compromised.

How does JYNNEOS work?

■ JYNNEOS, developed by Danish biotechnology company, Bavarian Nordic, contains a live vaccinia virus that does not replicate efficiently in human cells. The vaccinia virus is the smallpox virus but made incapable of replicating within the body. It is administered as two injections 28 days apart. The immune response takes 14 days after the second dose.

Health officials say the genomic sequence of the Indian strain of monkeypox has a 99.85% match with the West African strain. The Indian Council of Medical Research has invited tenders from local companies to develop a vaccine

The evidence for JYNNEOS' effectiveness against monkeypox rests on 22 clinical trials that tested the vaccine's safety on 7,859 people, aged 18-80, who were administered at least one dose of the vaccine. Like in other vaccines, a percentage of individuals reported pain, fever, rashes, nausea and chills following the doses. The vaccine's effectiveness was inferred only indirectly by comparing the immunogenicity of JYNNEOS to a licensed smallpox vaccine (ACAM2000) based on a laboratory test called the Plaque Reduction Neutralisation Test (PRNT). This test evaluates what quantity of the vaccine was needed to kill the virus made to replicate in a petri-dish. Because of structural similarities to the smallpox virus, the effectiveness of the JYNNEOS is estimated based on comparison to another licensed, smallpox vaccine called ACAM2000. There is no data yet on JYNNEOS' effectiveness. This is because smallpox has been eradicated and the monkeypox outbreak has risen too rapidly for a traditional phase 3 trial to have evaluated the vaccine's effectiveness. However, there is evidence that the precursor for ACAM2000 was effective in eradicating smallpox.

The US-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said public health officials are concerned about the lack of effectiveness data for JYNNEOS. "We do not know if JYNNEOS will fully protect against monkeypox virus infection," the CDC said.

Is the vaccine easily available?

■ As of July 29, doses were available in Brazil, Canada (Toronto, Montreal,) Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Europe, France, Germany (Berlin), Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal (Lisbon), Scotland, Spain (Madrid) and the U.K. (London) with the company claiming to have delivered around 3,00,000 doses.

What about India?

■ Health Ministry officials said discussions were in progress with international and local companies for a vaccine. The Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology Pune have isolated the virus strain from samples of people confirmed with the infection in India; there have been four confirmed cases of monkeypox in India so far. Officials said the genomic sequence of the Indian strain has a 99.85% match with the West African strain circulating globally. The ICMR has invited tenders from local companies to develop a vaccine. The Serum Institute of India said it was in talks with international partners regarding a potential vaccine but that it would take time. However, despite its infectiousness, monkeypox is largely a contained disease that doesn't attack vital organs and is as yet, not airborne. For COVID-19, Indian companies made billions of vaccine doses – most of which were locally consumed – but were also shipped internationally. Some experts have expressed reservations on whether approaching it as a COVID vaccine is the right way forward.

What has the SC said on PMLA's validity?

How did the court deal with the Enforcement Directorate's powers? Were all challenges rejected?

K. VENKATARAMANAN

The story so far: The Supreme Court has upheld several provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that deal with a wide range of issues, from what constitutes the main offence to the powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the procedure for conducting searches and seizures and effecting arrests. The manner in which the Act is being implemented has come in for much criticism in recent years, as several investigations have been opened against political functionaries opposed to the BJP. The court has given its thumbs up to what are considered 'draconian' provisions, rejecting strong challenges to their validity.

What is the verdict broadly based on?

■ Since the mid-1980s, there has been global concern over the proceeds of criminal activities such as drug-trafficking being 'laundered' or and used in financing terrorism. The UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances adopted in Vienna in 1988 (Vienna Convention) was the first treaty that called upon nations to adopt domestic laws to combat drug trafficking. As part of these laws, countries were asked to prohibit the conversion or transfer of property gained through dealing in narcotics to conceal its illicit origin. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established in the G-7 Summit in Paris in 1989 in response to mounting concern over money-laundering. The Task Force made recommendations from time to time to strengthen laws on the subject. The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 (Palermo Convention) also advocated legislative and other measures to combat organised crime, and specifically called for 'criminalising the laundering of proceeds of crime'.

The PMLA was enacted in 2002 but came into force in 2005. Its provisions gave effect to India's obligations to abide by international conventions. The Union government used this background to argue that PMLA provisions as well as subsequent amendments were valid and necessary to fulfil the country's obligations to combat the menace of money-laundering. In its verdict, the Supreme Court agreed with the government's contention. "Every provision in the 2002 Act will have to be given its due significance while keeping in mind the legislative intent for providing a special mechanism to deal with the scourge of money-laundering recognised world over and with the need to deal with it sternly," it said.

What was a key issue over defining money-laundering?

■ The offence under this law is mainly the laundering of money made through a crime. It has a three-part schedule of offences (or 'predicate offences') listing the various crimes such as terrorism, drug-trafficking, corruption and cheating that give rise to tainted money. A major issue raised by the petitioners arose from an explanation added in 2019 to clarify the scope of the definition of money-laundering under Section 3. They said the original wording meant that only the projection of tainted money as untainted, and its integration into the economy would constitute the offence. The ED, they argued, was registering money-laundering case solely on the basis of the original crimes without any proof that their proceeds were laundered. As a result, even transactions that date back years before the PMLA came into force were being probed for laundering.

The court rejected the challenge, holding that the explanation does not expand the scope of the original definition, and it is only clarificatory. It aims to capture every process and activity dealing with the proceeds of crime. The generation of money through crime and its integration with the formal economy are independent offences. It will be wrong to say that only upon the latter activity that the offence of money-laundering is complete. In this context, the court interpreted the conjunction 'and' – used between a part that spoke of 'possession, acquisition or use' of proceeds of crime with the part 'projecting or claiming as untainted' – to mean 'or'. This reading will render holding or using the proceeds of crime as much as an offence as the projecting or converting of the proceeds into legal money or property.

At the same time, the court clarified that the offence of money-laundering is dependent on illegal gain through the original crime (the scheduled offence). If a person is discharged or acquitted in respect of the original offence, or gets the case quashed through a competent court, there can be no case of money-laundering.

What were the issues concerning investigation by the ED?

■ The ED works on the basis of an internal manual. It registers an 'Enforcement Case Information Report' (ECIR), the equivalent of an FIR in ordinary cases. The manual is not a public document, and the ED does not share the ECIR with the accused. Therefore, why and how a money-laundering probe is initiated is unknown. When a summons is issued to a person, he is unaware of the reason, but must, nevertheless, attend and answer all questions and submit the documents asked for. The petitioners argued that this left any investigation, issue of summons and decision to order a search, seizure or arrest completely at the whim of ED officials. Unlike in other criminal cases, there is no judicial oversight of the process, and the accused are forced to seek bail after arrest without knowing the exact nature of the charges against them.

The court rejected all these contentions. Its conclusions were that: the ECIR cannot be equated with an FIR; that there are sufficient safeguards in the entire process of survey, search, seizure and arrest, in as much as the law requires the officer responsible to record reasons in writing at every stage. A copy of the ECIR need not be given to the accused, but at the time of arrest, the grounds of arrest should be conveyed. In any case, the Special Court can examine the documents to decide whether the detention of the accused needs to be continued.

The court suggested that the ED may consider the desirability of informing the public through its website the scope of the authority under the Act, the measures adopted by its functionaries and the options or remedies available to the accused.

What did the court say on ED summons?

■ When a person is summoned by a police officer, it is known whether it is for giving a statement as a witness or an accused. However, the ED has the power of a civil court to enforce the attendance of a person summoned under Section 50. Giving a statement and producing documents are mandatory obligations and it is an independent offence not to do so, and giving a false statement amounts to perjury. Also, such a statement should be signed by the person summoned and it can be used against him in a trial. This was challenged on the ground that the section is unconstitutional as it forces people to be witnesses against themselves, something prohibited by Article 20 of the Constitution.

However, the court rejected the idea that this amounts to testimonial compulsion. Rather, ED officers were not police officers, and the proceedings related to summons, being only an inquiry related to proceeds of crime, do not amount to an investigation. Therefore, it was open to the ED to gather material without treating the person as an accused, but nevertheless prosecute him later, if the information gleaned disclosed a money-laundering offence.

How did the Court uphold the stringent bail provision?

■ The petitioners had challenged the validity of the 'twin conditions' laid down in Section 45 of PMLA for grant of bail: that the court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of an offence; and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail. In 2018, the Supreme Court had struck down this section, as it was originally worded, on the ground that the conditions only applied to those offences listed in Part A of the Schedule attracting a prison term of three years and more, but not for the offence of money-laundering itself. However, Parliament re-enacted the section with a change: that the conditions would apply to all cases under PMLA, without any reference to the scheduled offence. The court upheld Parliament's power to enact a provision to cure a defect highlighted by the Supreme Court. It also ruled that given the gravity of the offence of money-laundering such stringent provisions related to bail are valid.

The court did not examine arguments based on the fact that some of the amendments were introduced in the form of Money Bills, as the issue concerning the scope of Money Bills is being separately considered by a seven-judge Bench.

Do we have fresh evidence on COVID-19 origins?

Was the Huanan seafood market an early epicentre of SARS-CoV-2? Why is it essential to know where it originated?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: A paper in *Science* Magazine, published on July 26, contained a post-facto analysis that the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 occurred via the live wildlife trade in China and established the Huanan market in Wuhan as the epicentre of the pandemic. While this is unlikely to seal forever the controversial debate over two years, including counter theories of a lab leak that led to the virus causing havoc in the world, it brings the issue to the first-of-its-kind empirical evidence-based averment and declaration on the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is important to produce and examine the evidence on this account, as understanding how the virus emerged is perceived as essential to preventing further outbreaks of zoonotic diseases.

What does the *Science* paper show?

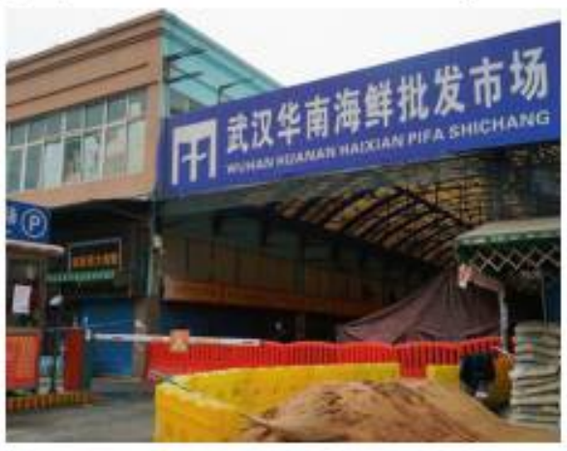
■ During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dominant hypothesis was that animals sold at the Huanan market were the likely source of the unexplained pneumonia cases. This led to the closure of the Huanan market on January 1, 2020.

The paper underlines the original theory that the "earliest known COVID-19 cases from December 2019, were geographically centered on this market." It shows that live SARS-CoV-2 susceptible mammals were sold at the market in late 2019. The analysis indicated a clear and present link between the market and the emergence and spread of the deadly virus. The authors record: Of the initial 41 people hospitalised with unknown pneumonia by January 2, 2020, 66% had direct exposure to the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market. These first cases were confirmed to be infected with a novel coronavirus, subsequently named SARS-CoV-2, and were suffering from a disease later called COVID-19. These early reports were free from ascertainment bias as they were based on signs and symptoms before the Huanan market was identified as a shared risk factor.

A systematic review of all cases notified to China's National Notifiable Disease Reporting System by hospitals in Wuhan showed that 55 of 168 of the earliest known COVID-19 cases were associated with this market. However, this alone could not indicate that the pandemic started there.

What methodology did the authors use?

■ The authors, comprising researchers from across the world, 'obtained data from a range of sources to test the hypothesis that the COVID-19 pandemic began at the Huanan market.' Michael Worobey et al say: "We were able to reliably extract the latitude and longitude coordinates of 155 cases from maps in the 2021 WHO mission report."



In the beginning: The closed Wuhan Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market in Wuhan, China on January 21, 2020. • AP

While early COVID-19 cases occurred across Wuhan, the majority clustered in central Wuhan near the west bank of the Yangtze River, with a high density of cases near to, and surrounding, the Huanan market. In a kernel density estimate (KDE) using the 120 cases with no known linkage to the market, the market remains within the highest density 1% contour. Using a COVID-19 assistance app on Sina Weibo, the researchers discovered that unlike early COVID-19 cases, by January and February, many of the sick who sought help resided in highly populated areas of the city, and particularly in areas with a high density of older people.

The authors considered three categories of cases, and they were all significantly closer to the Huanan market than expected – all cases, cases linked directly to the Huanan market and cases with no evidence of a direct link to the Huanan market. They also performed a spatial relative risk analysis to compare December 2019 COVID-19 cases with January-February 2020 cases, reported via Weibo. The Huanan market is located within a well-defined area with high case density. No other regions in Wuhan showed a comparable case density, they reported.

A report in a recent preprint, stated that only lineage B (of the two identified, A and B) sequences had been sampled at the Huanan market. Eleven lineage B cases from December 2019 resided closer than expected to the Huanan market. The authors went on to show that both identified lineage A cases had a geographical connection to the market, supporting the assumption that the virus was spreading outwards of the Huanan market.

They reported that multiple plausible intermediate wildlife hosts of SARS-CoV-2 progenitor viruses, including red foxes, hog badgers and common raccoon dogs, were sold live at the Huanan market up until at least November of 2019. The authors "reconstructed the floor plan of the market and integrated information from business registries of vendors at the market as well as an official report recording fines to three business owners for illegal sale of live mammals. From this, we identified an additional five stalls that were likely selling live or freshly butchered mammals or other unspecified meat products in the southwest corner of the western section of the market." With further analyses, they discovered that the region of increased positive sample density in the southwest corner of the western section of the market remained consistent.

According to a paper in *Science* Magazine, while early COVID-19 cases occurred across Wuhan, the majority clustered in central Wuhan, with a high density of cases near to, and surrounding, the Huanan market

What were the limitations to the study?

■ Clearly, "events upstream of the market, as well as exact circumstances at the market, remain obscure, highlighting the need for further studies to understand and lower the risk of future pandemics."

In a post-facto analysis, not having access to the precise latitude and longitude coordinates of all these cases, lacking direct evidence of an intermediate animal infected with a SARS-CoV progenitor virus, and the lack of a line list of early COVID-19 cases are acknowledged as drawbacks.

The authors have called for maximum effort to elucidate the upstream events that might have brought SARS-CoV-2 into the Huanan market, culminating in the COVID-19 pandemic. "To reduce the risk of future pandemics we must understand, and then limit, the routes and opportunities for virus spillover," the authors concluded.

TAIWAN

The next flashpoint in the U.S.-China contest

A planned visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the self-ruled Island has triggered an angry response from Beijing, sending tensions between the two countries soaring

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

ANANTH KRISHNAN

In a phone call on July 28, Chinese President Xi Jinping told U.S. President Joe Biden "that those who play with fire will perish by it", referring to the Taiwan question. "The fact and status quo that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one and the same China" was "crystal clear", he said, adding that China "firmly opposes separatist moves toward 'Taiwan independence' and interference by external forces".

His comments underlined how Taiwan has become the latest flashpoint in already tense U.S.-China relations, with Beijing reacting angrily to a planned visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. If it goes ahead in the coming week when Ms. Pelosi will be travelling to Asia, it would mark the highest-level visit from the U.S. to the island since 1997.

Coupled with recent comments from President Biden suggesting that the U.S. had made a "commitment" to involve itself military if China attacked Taiwan – comments that the White House later walked back, subsequently clarifying there was no change in the long-standing U.S. approach of "strategic ambiguity" that leaves this question unanswered – Ms. Pelosi's planned visit only confirmed views in Beijing that the U.S. was increasingly diluting its "One China Policy".

Mr. Biden sought to dispel those perceptions in the phone call, and "reaffirmed the United States' commitment to our One China Policy" and "underscored that the United States policy has not changed." He did, at the same time, also express U.S. opposition "to unilateral changes to the status quo by either side".

Indeed, if China has grievances with recent U.S. moves, both Washington and Taipei have viewed China's increasing military activity, such as frequent aerial intrusions into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ), and continued diplomatic pressure to isolate Taiwan internationally, which has seen the number of countries that maintain relations with Taiwan dwindle with many switching recognition to China, as destabilising cross-strait ties.

Contested Isle

The comments from the two leaders, in a nutshell, captured the curious current dynamics over Taiwan. All three parties – China, the U.S. and Taiwan – say they broadly favour the current status quo. The problem is, each now views the other as trying to shift the status quo, with these already growing suspicions brought to the fore by the visit of Ms. Pelosi.

At the heart of the tensions is Taiwan's unique position in this current status quo. Since the Kuomintang's (KMT) Chiang Kai-shek fled to the island after losing the civil war to Mao Zedong's Communists in 1949, Taiwan has been entirely self-ruled, evolving from a military dictatorship to a thriving democracy. Cross-strait ties grew when the KMT was in office, with a landmark economic cooperation agreement and an unprecedented meeting between Mr. Xi and then President Ma Ying-jeou in Singapore in 2015.

After the KMT lost the election to the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, who has spoken more forcefully about preserving Taiwan's status and was re-elected in 2020 with an even greater share of the vote, tensions with Beijing have risen. China has accused her of pursuing outright independence, although Ms. Tsai has made clear on numerous occasions that she only supports the status quo, a view, incidentally, shared by most people in Taiwan according to recent surveys.

For her part, President Tsai – China rejects the title of "President", viewing Taiwan as a "province" – has accused China of trying to, step by step, change the status quo by isolating Taiwan internationally and carrying out more aggressive military drills, such as the ADIZ intrusions.

Brewing crisis

If Biden administration officials and the U.S. military have said they didn't view the Pelosi visit as being helpful in the current climate, the U.S. has sought to convey to China that the President cannot dictate the actions of the Speaker of the House, a different branch of government. Chinese analysts have poohpoohed that argument, particularly because both the President and the Speaker hail from the same party, although the visit does appear to be driven more by Ms. Pelosi's inclinations – she has taken a strong stand on Tibet and Hong Kong in her long political career – than a major shift in U.S. policy.

All three parties – China, the U.S. and Taiwan – say they broadly favour the current status quo, but the problem is, each now views the other as trying to shift it

What has added to the tensions is the timing is that the PLA will mark its 95th anniversary on August 1, and more significantly, Mr. Xi will preside over a once-in-five-year Party Congress likely in October. This presents for the Chinese leader a difficult balancing act between not appearing weak domestically at a politically sensitive time, or on the other hand taking steps that might lead to an uncontrolled escalation.

Indeed, the U.S. military has expressed concerns on what steps China could take. China's response could range from announcing military drills near Taiwan to coincide with the visit, closing the airspace, or even a temporary naval blockade of Taiwan's ports, moves that would lead to spiralling tensions.

The longer-term question hanging over the latest brewing crisis is Taiwan's future. A government in Taipei declaring outright independence – something both the KMT and the DPP have so far eschewed – has been seen by Beijing's analysts as a red line. Chinese analysts have been closely studying Russia's invasion of Ukraine, not only as a warning for the post-invasion challenges that emerge, but in assessing the appetite for U.S. intervention, whether politics in Washington would favour boots on the ground, or if the U.S., as in Ukraine, would limit itself to supplying arms and ammunition.

The U.S., like India and most countries, does not maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan and follows a 'One China Policy'. This goes back to its establishing of ties with the PRC in the wake of Richard Nixon's path-breaking 1972 visit. The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 does, however, commit Washington to provide Taiwan the means to defend itself. Arms sales to Taiwan have been one of the thorniest issues in U.S.-China relations.

Geopolitical tussle

Increasingly drowned out in the China-U.S. geopolitical tussle is the question of what the 23 million people of Taiwan want for themselves. Surveys show growing numbers favour maintaining the status quo, and despite close familial ties with the mainland for many, fewer and fewer support the idea of unification. Ms. Tsai, last year, said Taiwan would "resist annexation". "We call for maintaining the status quo, and we will do our utmost to prevent the status quo from being unilaterally altered," she said, adding that "resolving cross-strait differences requires the two sides of the strait to engage in dialogue on the basis of parity."

She also highlighted Taiwan's importance in supply chains underscored by the global need for semiconductor chips, as well as its geopolitical importance. She referred specifically to the Quad – the India, Australia, U.S., Japan grouping – among those paying attention to the security situation in the Strait, saying that "the G7, NATO, EU, and Quad have all highlighted the importance of peace and security in the Taiwan Strait".

Yet whether any of those parties would be inclined to involve themselves directly in a conflict is another question. For China, what it calls "reunification" remains the holy grail for the Chinese Communist Party and some analysts have speculated that Mr. Xi would see it as his lasting legacy. Mr. Xi, 69, will begin a third five-year term this year and could remain at the helm for another decade, or longer.

Few Chinese analysts expect a military venture in the near future but the Party has repeatedly made clear it would not rule out the use of force. China's official White Paper on Taiwan declares it "is under no obligation to commit itself to rule out the use of force", a position that still stands. "This is by no means directed against Taiwan compatriots, but against the scheme to create an 'independent Taiwan' and against the foreign forces interfering in the reunification of China, and is intended as a necessary safeguard for the striving for peaceful reunification," the white paper says. "Resort to force," it adds, "would only be the last choice made under compelling circumstances."

In Focus

- Since Chiang Kai-shek fled to the island after losing the civil war to Mao's Communists in 1949, Taiwan has been entirely self-ruled
- Cross-strait ties grew when the KMT was in office, with a landmark economic cooperation agreement and a meeting between Xi and Taiwan's Ma Ying-jeou in 2015
- After the KMT lost the election to the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, tensions with Beijing have risen

DINESH GUNAWARDENA

The Rajapaksas' man

The new PM of crisis-hit Sri Lanka is a staunch ally of the former ruling clan

MEERA SRINIVASAN

ILLUSTRATION: J.A.PREMKUMAR

When Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe appointed long-time Rajapaksa loyalist Dinesh Gunawardena as Prime Minister earlier this month, it was an unexpected promotion for the senior politician.

He is technically the second most powerful man in the Sri Lankan government, taking the job at an exceptional time. The island nation continues weathering a painful economic meltdown for which citizens blame the former rulers and his bosses, the Rajapaksas, but that is only one of many challenges the new Premier faces. Sections among Sri Lanka's protesting citizens see his appointment, as well as Mr. Wickremesinghe's ascent to Presidency, as a continuation of the Rajapaksa government in a different name and form.

Mr. Gunawardena, 73, is the son of noted Marxist politician Philip Gunawardena, a founder of Sri Lanka's oldest political party in 1935, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP), that brought the Trotskyist strain of left politics to South Asia. Following Philip Gunawardena's death, Mr. Gunawardena inherited, and leads, his father's Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP or People's United Front), an electoral alliance-turned-party with a "democratic socialist" ideology. During the Second World War, the LSSP faced a crackdown for its anti-British policies, and Philip Gunawardena fled the island taking refuge in Mumbai. Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena's aunt Caroline and her husband S.C.C. Anthonypillai, of Jaffna Tamil Christian origin, both moved to Madras where they provided leadership to labour struggles.

Trade unionist

Mr. Gunawardena himself started out as a trade unionist, and still describes himself as one, although there is not much evidence of his leftism in the last few decades. His position is not unlike many others from Sri Lanka's old left, who aligned themselves with the Rajapaksas on an anti- imperialist platform that is, at its core, Sinhala-Buddhist nationalist. For most part of his political career since his Parliament entry in 1983, he aligned himself with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, from the time of former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. He steadfastly backed Mahinda Rajapaksa's prosecution of the war. Like former President Mahinda, he too believes in a unitary state, while rejecting accountability for wartime crimes against Tamils and substantive power sharing with the ethnic minority.

In the period after the civil war that ended in 2009, the Rajapaksa regime and reactionary groups associated with it were frequently blamed for the rising Islamophobia in Sri Lanka. The Muslim community faced at least two bouts of targeted violence in 2014 and 2018, before being subjected to attacks on the heels of the Easter terror bombings in 2019. Mr. Gunawardena firmly stood by the regime through these years.

Educated at one of Colombo's coveted elite public schools, Royal College, Mr. Gunawardena was a classmate of President Wickremesinghe. He studied international business at the University of Oregon and is among Sri Lanka's few politicians who are effortlessly bilingual in Sinhala and English. Modelling himself after his father, he too wears the Sinhala national dress of long-sleeved white collarless shirt and matching sarong as his staple attire, often accompanied by the maroon shawl associated with the Rajapaksa clan.

Amid growing concern from citizens over a "witch hunt" by the state, targeting anti-government demonstrators, PM Gunawardena recently told Parliament that the government is ready to listen to the democratic public protests but cannot accept "acts of terrorism". In addition to serving as Prime Minister, he holds the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.

As Prime Minister, though, Mr. Gunawardena has minimal powers under an executive President. The 20th Amendment passed by the ousted Rajapaksa administration in October 2020 bestowed the President with unbridled powers and great immunity.

Mr. Wickremesinghe has promised to enact yet another constitutional change that will restore some of the Prime Minister's powers while clipping those of the President. If and when that happens, all eyes will be on Mr. Gunawardena to see his own political leadership. Until then, he will be best known as a placeholder for the Rajapaksas.

PARTHA CHATTERJEE

The fall of a heavyweight

With its former leader in jail over corruption, Trinamool is on a sticky wicket

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

In 2006, when Partha Chatterjee was elected Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, a group of journalists asked him about the new responsibility. "There is no one else around," Mr. Chatterjee said. Clearly, in the formative years of the Trinamool Congress, Mr. Chatterjee was one of its tallest leaders after Mamata Banerjee. During the tumultuous times between 2006 and 2011, when protests against forcible land acquisition at Singur and Nandigram rocked West Bengal politics, Ms. Banerjee and Mr. Chatterjee took on the mighty Left Front, which had 235 MLAs compared to the Trinamool's 30. Mr. Chatterjee was the voice of Opposition both inside the House and outside. Many still recall how he squatted outside the office of former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee during the Nandigram agitation.

For such a promising political leader whose career spanned several decades, the fall was sudden and steep. The dramatic recovery of cash amounting to ₹50 crore and several kilograms of gold from two properties of Arpita Mukherjee, an associate of the Minister, has not only shocked political circles but even the rank and file of the Trinamool. According to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the cash and jewellery was seized when the agency was conducting raids in the School Service Commission recruitment scam, which involves irregularities in recruitment of teachers and non-teaching staff in State-run schools. Mr. Chatterjee, along with his associate, was arrested on July 23 and will be under ED custody till August 3. He has been stripped of his ministerial and party responsibilities.

Rise in politics

Mr. Chatterjee rose to the top levels of the party from a student leader in Kolkata's Asutosh College. After a degree in economics, he completed an MBA. He then left a corporate career to join the Trinamool. When the party came to power in 2011, he was number two in the government holding crucial portfolios like Industries and Commerce, Information and Technology and School and Higher Education.

The 69-year-old leader shared a camaraderie with the party chairperson Ms. Banerjee who would often joke about his girth at Industry summits. Partha Da, as Ms. Banerjee would call him, was the key adjudicator of the Trinamool, maintaining a balance between the party and the government, and taking decisions of the party's disciplinary committee. Mr. Chatterjee was the Trinamool's go-to person even for Governors, from Gopal Krishna Gandhi to Jagdeep Dhankhar. Interestingly, Mr. Chatterjee was planning to write a memoir about the Governors at Raj Bhawan he encountered from 2006 till date.

Even when the Trinamool was finding it difficult to defend its leaders in the Saradha chit fund scam and Naradha sting tapes, no aspersions were cast on Mr. Chatterjee. In public perception, he was always 'Mr. Clean'.

Interestingly, the fall of Mr. Chatterjee comes at a time when the old order of the party is making way for the new. The rise of Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in the party seems to coincide with older leaders and trusted lieutenants of Ms. Banerjee moving away. With Mukul Roy out of active politics, Subrata Mukherjee no more and Mr. Chatterjee behind bars, Ms. Banerjee's 'confidants' are no longer part of the party's decision making.

More than the old versus new, Mr. Chatterjee's arrest and related developments point at a rot that has set in West Bengal's ruling dispensation – and the fact that scandals have haunted it during the entire 11 years of power. From the Saradha chit fund scam of 2013, Naradha tapes of 2016 and the corruption in relief distribution after cyclone Amphan in 2020, the Trinamool has always found itself on a sticky wicket on the issue of corruption.

The leadership has said the onus is on Mr. Chatterjee to probe that the money seized is not from proceeds of a crime. However, if a key Minister and senior party functionary is found sitting on piles of cash in Kolkata, both the State government and the party cannot absolve themselves from the responsibility. Mr. Chatterjee has maintained that only time will tell whether the party decision to dump him was correct or not, but for the Trinamool, time seems to be running out in getting its house in order.

OVL eyes stake in Tullow Oil's Kenya oil field

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

ONGC Videsh Ltd., the overseas arm of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) are in talks to acquire a stake in Tullow Oil's Lokichar oil field in Kenya.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Energy Monica Juma, in a tweet, confirmed the talks.

Tullow also confirmed the talks.

"Tullow confirms that the Ministry of Petroleum and Mines hosted a meeting with Tullow and OVL in Nairobi as part of Tullow's ongoing process to secure a strategic investor for Project Oil Kenya," it tweeted.

Tullow holds a 50% stake in the south Lokichar field and is looking to give up operatorship.

More than 4.52-crore ITRs filed till Friday as deadline looms

Sunday is the last date for taxpayers to file Income Tax returns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

More than 4.52 crore returns have been filed till July 29, the Income Tax department said on Saturday, on the eve of the ITR filing deadline for the financial year 2021-22.

The department issued a public message through its official Twitter handle asking taxpayers to file their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) before the due date. It said more than 43 lakh returns were filed on July 29 itself.

"Hope you have filed yours too! If not, pl #File-Now. Due date to file ITR for AY 2022-23 is 31st July, 2022," it tweeted.

A "war room" of technical experts working on the portal and the social media team of the CBDT that was gathering individual and public responses to the filing were working together 24x7, a senior officer told PTI.

Asked about the demands being made over the social media and through representations sent to the CBDT to extend the ITR filing deadline of July 31, officials said they were looking at ensuring that "filings are done smoothly till the deadline and nothing more is on their mind right now."

The department's Twitter handle responded to some messages that said the e-filing website was not working by stating: "As informed by our team, the e-filing portal is working fine. May we request you to retry after clearing the browser cache. If you still face any issues, pl share your details (with PAN & mobile no.) at 'orm@cpc.incometax.gov.in'. Our team will connect with you."

According to data updated till July 28, about 4.05 crore ITRs were filed and among this the number of returns verified/validated by taxpayers was 3.09 crore.

The number of returns processed was 2.41 crore.

About 5.89 crore ITRs were filed last time by the extended due date of December 31, 2021.

Rush to file: More than 43 lakh returns were filed on July 29 itself, the Income Tax department said. • FILE PHOTO

Bank of Baroda Q1 net rises 79% on decline in bad loans

GNPA ratio shrank in the June quarter to 6.26%, from 8.86%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bank of Baroda (BoB) posted a 79% rise in net profit at ₹2,168 crore for the first quarter ended June, aided by a decline in bad loans.

Total income increased to ₹20,119.52 crore, compared with ₹19,915.83 crore, according to a regulatory filing. The lender's interest income rose to ₹18,937.49 crore, from ₹17,052.64 crore a year earlier.

Non-interest income improved by 12% to ₹8,838 crore, boosted by fee income that climbed 15%.

However, operating profit for the quarter declined 19% to ₹4,528 crore, from ₹5,707 crore. On the asset quality front, the lender's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio improved in the June quarter to 6.26%, from 8.86%.

In absolute terms, the gross NPAs or bad loans declined to ₹52,590.83 crore from ₹63,028.78 crore a year earlier. Net NPAs too dipped to 1.58%, from 3.03%.

As a result, provisions other than tax and contingencies for bad loans declined to ₹1,684.80 crore from ₹4,005.40 crore.

The organic retail loan portfolio of the bank increased 23.2%, led by growth in personal loans (14.7%), auto loans (25.6%), education loans (20.5%) and home loans (15.3%) on an annual basis, the lender said.

Credit expansion: The retail loan portfolio of the bank grew 23.2%, within which auto loans expanded 25.6%. • REUTERS

SpiceJet lessor wants 3 planes deregistered

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

A Dubai-based lessor of SpiceJet Ltd. has asked India's aviation regulator to deregister three of the budget airline's planes as SpiceJet struggles with high costs and maintenance challenges.

The United Arab Emirates aeronautics firm AWAS did not specify why it was seeking to deregister the three Boeing 737s in Friday's notification, published by India's aviation regulator Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

SpiceJet told Reuters it was returning older aircraft in a phased manner, including these three aircraft, as part of a modernisation plan.

Dr. Reddy's to acquire Slayback's eyedrop rights

Pact gives DRL access beyond U.S. too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Lumify can be used to relieve redness of the eye due to minor eye irritation

Pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has entered into a licensing agreement to obtain rights to New Jersey-based Slayback Pharma's Brimonidine Tartrate Ophthalmic Solution 0.025%.

Slayback Pharma is the first to file an ANDA (abbreviated new drug application) for the private label equivalent for Lumify with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) under Paragraph IV certification.

The ANDA covers Brimonidine Tartrate Ophthalmic Solution 0.025% in 2.5 ml and 7.5 ml fill volumes, Dr. Reddy's said in a release.

Lumify is an over-the-counter (OTC) eyedrop that can be used to relieve redness of the eye due to minor eye irritation. The agreement also provides Dr. Reddy's exclusive rights to the product outside of the U.S.

"It [the product] complements the company's growing OTC product portfolio in eyecare category," said Marc Kikuchi, CEO, North America Generics, Dr. Reddy's. The value of total addressable market for the product in the U.S. is about $130 million for the 52-week period ending June 12, Dr. Reddy's said citing IRI Data.

UAE builder Danube to buy from India

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The UAE-based developer Danube Properties said it would import building materials from India following the free trade pact – or the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement – between the two countries becoming operational.

"Now, one can import anything from India due to the duty advantage," said Rizwan Sajan, founder and chairman, Danube Group, in an interview.

"Business between the two countries will grow tremendously. We will import tiles, laminates and even Indian plywood for our projects in Dubai. This will make us competitive," Mr. Sajan added.

Indian Bank Q1 net rises 3% to ₹1,213 crore on credit offtake

Total income increases to ₹11,758 crore from ₹11,444 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Public sector lender Indian Bank reported first-quarter standalone net profit rose 3% from a year earlier to ₹1,213 crore on improved credit offtake, reduction in NPAs and stable NIM.

Total income rose to ₹11,758 crore from ₹11,444 crore, net interest income grew 13% to ₹4,534 crore and non-interest income (excluding treasury income) increased 38% to ₹1,736 crore, the lender said in a regulatory filing.

Fee based income grew 35% to ₹627 crore and net interest margin improved to 3.10% from 2.85%.

Total provisions rose by 5% to ₹2,351 crore while operating expenses contracted 7% to ₹2,574 crore.

GNPAs decline

Gross non-performing assets decreased by 156 bps to 8.13% and net NPAs by 135 bps to 2.12%. Provision coverage ratio improved to 88.08% from 82%.

Total business recorded a year-on-year growth of 9% to ₹10,09,454 crore with deposits increasing by 8% to ₹5,84,251 crore and advances by 9% to ₹4,25,203 crore.

Retail, Agriculture and MSME (RAM) grew by 12% to ₹2,44,247 crore. RAM sectors grew by 14%, 13% and 8%, respectively. RAM's contribution to local advances was 61%. Housing loans grew by 11%, auto loans by 22%, personal loans by 32% and gold loans by 42%.

As the economy opens up after the pandemic, the demand for credit has risen and there is an indication of green shoots in the economy, the bank said.

'Scorpio-N bookings cross one lakh'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra on Saturday said its new Scorpio-N SUV received one lakh bookings within 30 minutes of commencement at 11 a.m., translating into an ex-showroom value of ₹18,000 crore.

"Scorpio-N recorded 25,000 bookings within one minute of booking commencement," the firm said in a statement. Deliveries will begin from September 26. More than 20,000 units are planned for delivery by December and the top-most variant, Z8L, would be prioritised, it added. Mahindra said it would update customers about their delivery dates by the end of August.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

CWG 2022: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards; Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. onwards
Chess Olympiad 2022: FIDE & Chessbase India YouTube channels, 3 p.m. onwards
Scotland vs New Zealand: Only ODI, FanCode, 3.30 p.m.
Zimbabwe vs Bangladesh: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 4.30 p.m.
F1: Hungary GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
England vs South Africa: 3rd T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.15 p.m.
Formula E: London E Prix, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Eight-under Jeev lies second at JCB Champs

UTTOXETER (ENGLAND)

Jeev Milkha Singh cracked a sensational bogey-free eight-under 64 to lie second after the first round of the JCB Championship here. Jeev, in his rookie year as a 'Senior', was two shots behind South African James Kingston. PTI

Zimbabwe goes 1-0 up

HARARE

Batters Sikandar Raza and Wessly Madhevere starred as Zimbabwe beat Bangladesh by 17 runs here on Saturday in the first of a three-match T20I series.

The scores: Zimbabwe 205/3 in 20 overs (Wessly Madhevere 67, Sikandar Raza 65 n.o., Mustafizur Rahman 2/50) bt Bangladesh 188/6 in 20 overs (Nurul Hasan 42 n.o., Najmul Hossain 37, Luke Jongwe 2/34). **MoM:** Sikandar Raza.

INRC: Gill takes the lead on day one

Ace driver executes the 'safety first' strategy to perfection

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

With a smooth-flowing stage in front of him, JK Tyre's top star Gaurav Gill (co-driver Musa Sherif) preferred to drive at a relaxed pace to emerge overall leader on day one of the Blueband Sports Rally of Coimbatore, the second round of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship for four-wheelers here on Saturday.

It was quite surprising to see the World Rally Championship (WRC) driver touch only an average speed of 70. But it was all part of his strategy and was enough for him to take a lead of a minute and a half over his nearest rival Karna Kadur.

"I have never gone this slow in my entire INRC career. This time around, I decided I wanted to bring the car safely home. This rally is all about playing it safe. There's no point pushing hard and making huge timings. It's all about conserving the car and the tyres," he said.

Musa Sherif was also surprised at the way Gill handled the stages. "I have never seen him drive this slow in the 15 years that we had been together," he said.

"More than the speed, it is very important to show the capability of the car and the driver," said Gill, whose priority is to finish the rally on top.

On Sunday, the drivers will head to the Kethanur windmill farm, where the stages are expected to be rough. With a huge lead, Gill may further play it safe for the title.

Steady drive: JK Tyre's Gaurav Gill (co-driver Musa Sherif) negotiates the SM Agro Stage. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Forest Flame expected to deliver

BENGALURU: Forest Flame, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Karnataka Mile Championship Cup (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 31). False rails (width about 9m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 LIVELY EMPREY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Tiger Returns (10) Nazerul 60, 2. Dawn Rising (2) J.H. Arul 59.5, 3. Red Lucifer (5) Salman K 59.5, 4. Chandra Kanta (6) Saddam H 58.5, 5. Sacred Creator (8) B. Harish 58.5, 6. Rainbow Rising (1) Adarsh 58, 7. Perfect Halo (11) Angad 57.5, 8. Blazing Engine (4) Akshay K 56, 9. Ultimate Choice (3) Vishal B 56, 10. Zehnaseeb (9) Hindu S 56 and 11. Jai Vikram (7) G. Vivek 54.5.
1. TIGER RETURNS,
2. DAWN RISING,
3. ULTIMATE CHOICE

2 TRACK LIGHTNING PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Agera (8) R. Pradeep 56, 2. Maybach (7) Rayan 56, 3. Quick Witted (5) G. Vivek 56, 4. Royal Grant (3) B. Harish 56, 5. Star Admiral (6) Trevor 56, 6. Firefinch (1) Salman K 54.5, 7. My Solitaire (2) Akshay K 54.5 and 8. Secret Lady (4) Nazerul 54.5.
1. STAR ADMIRAL,
2. MY SOLITAIRE,
3. SECRET LADY

3 DESERT GOD TROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 3-30: 1. De Villiers (2) Trevor 60, 2. Lucky Chance (5) Tousif 59.5, 3. Tactical Command (6) Akshay K 59.5, 4. Watchmystars (3) Likith 59, 5. Hukum (4) Md. Aliyar 58 and 6. Star Glory (1) Suraj 57.
1. STAR GLORY,
2. DE VILLIERS

4 KARNATAKA MILE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Lagarde (3) Trevor 60, 2. Forest Flame (1) Sandesh 58.5, 3. Automatic (2) Akshay K 52.5 and 4. All Attractive (–) (–) 52.
1. FOREST FLAME,
2. LAGARDE

5 YERAWADA STUD PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Silvarius (4) S. John 60, 2. Imperial Blue (7) L.A. Rozario 59, 3. Scribbling Hopper (6) Akshay K 56, 4. Southern Dynasty (5) Darshan 56, 5. Pink Jasmine (3) Trevor 54.5, 6. Starry Wind (2) Shreyas S 53.5 and 7. Southern Power (1) Arshad 52.5.
1. IMPERIAL BLUE,
2. PINK JASMINE

6 GALILEE PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Shabelle (5) Akshay K 61, 2. Montelena (9) L.A. Rozario 58.5, 3. Ozark (1) M. Prabhakaran 58.5, 4. Inyouwebelieve (10) Trevor 58, 5. Tifanny (6) Sandesh 57.5, 6. Queen Of Sands (7) Nazerul 57, 7. Fictioneer (2) Vishal B 56.5, 8. Breeze Bluster (4) S. Saqlain 55, 9. Mr Humble (8) P. Surya 53, 10. Brooklyn Supreme (12) J.H. Arul 52.5, 11. She's All Class (11) Arshad 51.5 and 12. Benignity (3) Saddam H 50.
1. SHABELLE,
2. INYOUWEBELIEVE

7 LIVELY EMPREY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-30: 1. Able One (8) Srinath 62.5, 2. Bentayga (9) G. Vivek 62.5, 3. Elite Agent (10) Angad 62.5, 4. Rudram (6) Nazerul 62, 5. Amazonite (4) B. Nayak 61, 6. Cinco De Mayo (5) Tousif 60, 7. Fierce Fighter (11) Arshad 59.5, 8. Jersey Legend (7) S. Saqlain 59.5, 9. Phoenix Surprise (1) Hindu S 58.5, 10. Commandpost (2) B. Harish 58 and 11. Infinite Spirit (3) Adarsh 58.
1. ABLE ONE, 2. JERSEY LEGEND,
3. BENTAYGA

Day's best: STAR GLORY
Double: STAR ADMIRAL – SHABELLE

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Indian team to fly out in batches

To take part in the world athletics u-20 championships

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

After many anxious days, the Indian team will finally leave in batches on Sunday for the World Athletics under-20 championships, which begin in Colombia on Monday.

The first batch will be flying out from Mumbai early on Sunday and after a 28-hour journey via Amsterdam and Bogota is expected to reach Cali, the championships' venue, that same night.

"Ten athletes are in the first batch," said an Athletics Federation of India official on Saturday evening. The Government has cleared 33 athletes and 11 officials for the Worlds, which run till August 6, but it was not clear on Saturday whether the entire team would be able to make the trip.

Quartermilers Priya H. Mohan, Rupal and Kapil are among those who will be flying in the first batch and they have their first event, the 4x400m mixed relay, on Monday evening.

The Indian team won the mixed relay bronze at last year's under-20 Worlds in Nairobi. But with countries like the USA, Great Britain, Germany, and Australia back this year after skipping the 2021 edition, the competition will be a lot tougher this time.

Till Friday night, it was not clear whether the Indian athletes would be able to make it to Cali.

They were a worried lot in New Delhi, but by Saturday evening many of them began flying out to Mumbai.

Priya Mohan. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Satish is champion

SPORTS BUREAU

Satish Kumar (co-driver Chethan Chengappa (Karnataka) won the overall title in Rainforest Challenge (RFC) India 2022 in Panaji on Saturday.

The duo finished with 1895 points out of the possible 2500 from 25 special stages to win the title.

As the top driver in the competition, Satish won an automatic entry to RFC 2022 Mother event which will be held in Malaysia at the end of the year.

Defending champion Kabir Waraich (co-driver Dusyant Khosla) was second with 1825 points. N. Abhinav Reddy (co-driver Vishuthi Varun) came third with 1734 points.

Multifaceted obliges in Bangalore City Sprint Championship Gold Cup

BENGALURU: Darius Byramji-trained Multifaceted (Trevor up) won the Bangalore City Sprint Championship Gold Cup, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (July 30). The winner is owned by Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Jockey Trevor won three races for the day.

1. CAMINETO PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **ONLY YOU** (Salman K) 1, Toronero (L.A. Rozario) 2, Ansaldo (Srinath) 3 and Lycurgus (G. Vivek) 4. 8-1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 38.65s. ₹21 (w), 14 and 33 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 37, FP: 199, Q: 99, Trinella: 305 and 60, Exacta: 678 and 386. Favourite: Only You. Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad and Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

2. SMART CHIEFTAN PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **ALBINUS** (Hindu S) 1, Domingo (Sandesh) 2, Kulsum (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Angel Bliss (Vinod Shinde) 4. Lnk, 2-1/2 and Snk. 1m, 27.89s. ₹185 (w), 31, 13 and 16 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 40, FP: 648, Q: 181, Trinella: 1,221 and 432, Exacta: 11,012 and 3,146. Favourite: Domingo. Owners: M/s. GMMSR Advisory Services LLP & Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: James Mckeown.

3. DR. K.M. SRINIVAS GOWDA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65: **KENSINGTON COURT** (Trevor) 1, Eternal Princess (Suraj) 2, Lauterbrunnen (Angad) 3 and Mystic Eye (Ikram A) 4. 1/2, 1-3/4 and 1/2. 1m, 14.40s. ₹19 (w), 10, 11 and 16 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 32, FP: 35, Q: 13, Trinella: 63 and 67, Exacta: 419 and 218. Favourite: Kensington Court. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd & Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

4. BANGALORE CITY SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms): **MULTIFACETED** (Trevor) 1, Enigma (P.S. Chouhan) 2 and Golden Oaks (Sandesh) 3. Not run: Smashing Blue. 2 and 4-1/4. 1m, 12.54s. ₹15 (w). Favourite: Multifaceted. Owners: Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

5. BOURBON KING PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **SIEGE PERILOUS** (S. John) 1, Garamond (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Millbrook (Hasib A) 3 and See My Heels (Vinod Shinde) 4. 3-1/2, 1-3/4 and Snk. 1m, 26.75s. ₹22 (w), 15 and 14 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 67, FP: 37, Q: 23, Trinella: 541 and 384, Exacta: 946 and 332. Favourite: Siege Perilous. Owners: Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar, Mrs. Ammu Ajit & Mr. Dean Stephens. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. ALEKONA PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: **YUKAN** (Trevor) 1, Nikolina (Akshay K) 2, Baltimore (S. John) 3 and Amreli (Salman K) 4. 1-3/4, Nk and 3-1/4. 1m, 13.87s. ₹33 (w), 13, 12 and 28 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 56, FP: 127, Q: 60, Trinella: 651 and 496, Exacta: 882 and 241. Favourite: Amreli. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mrs. Rina Mahindra, Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy And Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. COMMANCHE PLATE (1,800m), rated 00 to 25: **MRS THATCHER** (Saqlain) 1, Adela (Vivek) 2, Divya Shakthi (G. Vivek) 3 and Love (M. Naveen) 4. 2-1/2, 1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 55.43s. ₹38 (w), 25 and 34 (p), SHP: 57, THP: 42, FP: 299, Q: 232, Trinella: 1,067 and 271, Exacta: 2,615 and 2,740. Favourite: Divya Shakthi. Owner: Capt. Jamshed J. Appoo. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

Jackpot: ₹934 (77 tkts.); Runner-up: 103 (299 tkts.); Treble (i): 432 (17 tkts.); (ii): 379 (47 tkts.).

Sensational Mirabai makes it a golden day for India

Valiant Sanket finishes with silver after being injured while going for the yellow metal; Gururaja takes the bronze

1-2-3: Mirabai lifted the gold with a commanding performance while Sanket took the silver with a lion-hearted display. Gururaja, whose build-up to the event was anything but perfect, bagged the bronze. • AP, REUTERS & PTI

SANTADEEP DEY
BIRMINGHAM

Weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold in the 2022 Commonwealth Games, putting up a 201kg total in the 49kg weight class. This was India's third weightlifting medal of the day. Earlier, Sanket Mahadev Sargar won the silver in the men's 55kg division and Gururaja Poojary clinched the bronze in the men's 61kg weight category.

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai stamped her class in the event. A *Phaad de, Mira* (tear through the competition, Mira) roar from a fan in the stand adjacent to the food outlet in Hall 1 of the National Exhibition Centre welcomed her to the weightlifting platform.

Her winning effort included a Commonwealth Record (CR) and Games Record (GR) in snatch, and a GR in clean and jerk.

Mirabai had a successful first lift at 84kg. She equalled her personal snatch best of 88kg with her second one. Mirabai, gearing up for the upcoming World Championships, was looking forward to reaching the 90kg mark in snatch here. She got the bar loaded at that weight and though she came closer than she had twice in earlier competitions, Mirabai faltered.

In clean and jerk, Mirabai lifted 109kg in the first attempt and 113kg in the second. She failed in her third attempt, at 115kg. "I knew the Commonwealth Games was a relatively easier competition for me. Even my coach felt the same. I never took it easy, though. My fight was against my myself. I have a lot of goals. I wanted to give my best performance and it was good that records came along," said Mirabai.

In men's 55kg, Sanket had a 6kg lead over Mohamad Aniq Bin Kasdan of Malaysia. However, he suffered an elbow injury in his second clean and jerk attempt at 139kg. Kasdan nudged him down to silver by 1kg in total and won the gold. Sanket lifted a total of 248 (113 snatch, 135 clean and jerk).

"There were no errors during the (failed) lift. I felt a sudden load on my right elbow so I lost control. I heard something click," said the 21-year-old Sanket.

In the men's 61kg category, Gururaja, who braved a bout of sickness and pain in his knee and wrists in the run-up to the event, bagged the bronze. This is his second Commonwealth Games medal after the silver he won in Gold Coast four years ago in the 56kg class. The Karnataka weightlifter had a total of 269kg (118kg snatch, 151kg clean and jerk) on Saturday.

Malaysia's Muhammad Aznil bin Bidin scripted history, registering Games Records in both snatch (127kg) and clean and jerk (158kg) to take the gold. Papua New Guinea's Morea Baru finished second with an effort of 273kg (121kg snatch, 152kg clean and jerk – 152kg).

"Coach Vijay (Sharma) motivated me, saying, "you have trained for this all your life. You left your home. A medal is bound to come,'" said Gururaja.

INDIANS' JOURNEY

Athletics: Men's marathon (final): 12. Nitendra Singh Rawat.

Badminton: Mixed team (Group A): bt Sri Lanka 5-0.

Boxing: Men: Featherweight (round-of-32): Mohammad Hussamuddin bt Amzolele Dyeyi (RSA); Women: Light middleweight (round-of-16): Lovlina Borgohain bt Ariane Nicholson (NZ).

Squash: Round-of-32: Men: Christopher Binnie (Jam) w/o Ramit Tandon; Saurav Ghosal bt Shamil Wakeel (SL) 3-0. Round-of-64: Abhay Singh bt Joe Chapman (IVB) 3-0; Women: Round-of-32: Sunayna Kuruvilla lost to Aifa Azman (Mas) 0-3; Joshna Chinappa bt Meagan Best (Bar) 3-0.

Swimming: Men: 100m backstroke (semifinals): Srihari Nataraj (7th overall), enters final; 200m freestyle: Kushagra Rawat (25th overall), DNQ for final.

Table Tennis: Team event: Women (Group 2): bt Guyana 3-0; Quarterfinal: lost to Malaysia 2-3 (Reeth/Sreeja lost to Lyne/Chang 1-3; Manika bt Ho 3-2; Sreeja bt Chang 3-0; Manika lost to Lyne 0-3; Reeth lost to Ho 2-3; Men (Group 3): bt Northern Ireland 3-0.

Weightlifting: Men: 55kg: Sanket Sargar (silver); 61kg: Gururaja (bronze); Women: 49kg: Mirabai Chanu (gold).

TOP INDIAN PICKS

A look at some of the Indian players/teams who will be in action on Sunday:

Artistic Gymnastics: Men's all-around final: Yogeshwar Singh (1.30 p.m.).

Boxing (round-of-16): Women: Light Flyweight: Nikhat Zareen vs. Helena Ismael Bagao (4.45 p.m.). Men: Light Welterweight: Shiva Thapa vs. Reese Lynch (5.15 p.m.); Middleweight: Sumit vs. Callum Peters (12.15 a.m., August 1); Super Heavyweight: Sagar vs. Maxime Yegnong Njieyo (1 a..m., August 1).

Cricket: Women (Group A): vs. Pakistan (3.30 p.m.).

Hockey: Men (Pool A): vs. Ghana (8.30 p.m.).

Squash (round-of-16): Women: Joshna Chinappa vs. Kaitlyn Watts (6 p.m.); Men: Saurav Ghosal vs. David Baillargeon (6.45 p.m.).

Swimming: Men (heats): 200m butterfly: Sajan Prakash (3 p.m.). 50m backstroke: Srihari Nataraj (3.30 p.m.).

Table Tennis: Team event (quarterfinal): Men: vs. Bangladesh, 4.30 p.m.

Triathlon: Mixed team relay final (7 p.m.).

Weightlifting: Men: 67kg: Jeremy Lalrinnunga (2 p.m.); 73 kg: Achinta Sheuli (11 p.m.). Women: 59kg: Popy Hazarika (6.30 p.m.).

Lovlina too good for Ariane

Hussamuddin shows his class to beat Dyeyi

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain and 2018 Commonwealth Games bronze winner Mohammad Hussamuddin posted convincing victories in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Saturday.

Lovlina, also a two-time World championships bronze medallist, began well by recording a 5-0 victory over New Zealand's Ariane Nicholson in the women's 70kg pre-quarterfinals to set up a last-eight clash with 2018 Commonwealth Games silver winner Rosie Eccles of Wales on August 3.

The 24-year-old from Assam, who used her long reach, took the first round by landing combinations through nice counter-attacks.

After winning two rounds, Lovlina showed better footwork and was more confidence to win comfortably.

Hussamuddin showed his class as he put it across the young South African Amzolele Dyeyi 5-0 in the men's 57kg first round and began his quest for a second successive medal.

Hussamuddin will take on Bangladesh's Mohammed Salim Hossain in the pre-quarterfinals on Monday.

In an engaging contest between two compact boxers, the Indian southpaw scored through lovely combinations and upper cuts even as the South African attacked Hussamuddin's body in the first round.

The Indian surged ahead in the second round with the help of solid straight punches and hooks.

The 28-year-old tried to stay safe in the third round and relied on his right jabs to walk away with a fine victory.

Mixed badminton team in quarterfinals

Women's TT team dethroned; Joshna, Ghosal in the round of 16 in squash

INDIAN ROUND-UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Indian shuttlers outclassed Sri Lanka 5-0 in their second Group A match of the mixed team competition on Saturday to qualify for the quarterfinals.

Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy looked rusty before getting past Sachin Dias and Thilini Hendahewa 21-14, 21-9 to put India 1-0 ahead.

Lakshya Sen prevailed 21-18, 21-5 over Niluka Karunatne before Akarshi Kashyap went past Vidara Suhasni Vidanage 21-3, 21-9 to hand India an unassailable 3-0 lead.

Finishing touch: Aakarshi's win sealed the badminton tie against Sri Lanka • GETTY IMAGES

B. Sumeeth Reddy and Chirag Shetty beat Dumindu Abeywickrama and Sachin Dias 21-10, 21-13 to make it 4-0 before Gayatri Gopichand and Tressa Jolly overcame Thilini Hendahewa and Vidara Suhasni Vidanage 21-18, 21-6 to compete the formalities.

SQUASH: Joshna and Saurav Ghosal advanced to the pre-quarterfinals after easy wins in the women's and men's singles matches respectively on Saturday.

TABLE TENNIS: Malaysia dethroned India in the women's team event by a winning a thrilling quarterfinal 3-2. The men thrashed Northern Ireland 3-0 in a Group 3 game to stay in the competition.

Dhawan named captain

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Shikhar Dhawan will lead India in the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe next month.

The senior selection committee picked a 15-member squad, with Deepak Chahar returning to the squad.

The squad: Shikhar Dhawan (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd. Siraj, and Deepak Chahar. **The schedule:** Aug. 18, 20 and 22.

Another fruitful day for India

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

The going got a bit tougher but Indian teams came out stronger as expected.

These are earlier days in the Chess Olympiad here and the casualty list is still empty. The stronger teams lived up to their seeding and added two more match-points. Unlike the opening round, more fancied teams dropped at least a draw or two on Saturday.

For the second straight day, USA's search for a 4-0 sweep continued. If it was Levon Aronian on Friday, three of his teammates – birthday-boy Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So and Sam Shankland – joined him with a draw against their names. The winning difference was Leinier Dominguez Perez on the third board against Jose Fernando Cubas.

Unlike Caruana, World champion Magnus Carlsen resumed his Olympiad campaign after a six-year gap, with a late win. For the better part of the contest, up to the 74th move to be precise, Georg Meier played flawlessly. However, a dubious continuation by Meier on the 75th move paved the way for Carlsen's win in 80 moves.

Exploring the options: Praggnanandhaa ponders his next move against Chukavin. • R. RAVINDRAN

For the host, it was another fruitful day. Though Arjun Erigaisi escaped with a draw, victories on the other boards gave India 1 a comprehensive victory over Moldova. The much-followed India 2 raced away to a 4-0 triumph by playing to its reputation against Estonia.

For India 3, M. Karthikeyan's fourth-board win proved the difference against Mexico as Surya Sekhar Ganguly, S. P. Sethuraman and Abhijeet Gupta followed with draws.

Important results (second round, with match-points):

Moldova (2) lost to India 1 (4) 0.5-3.5 (Ivan Schitco lost to P. Harikrishna; Andrei Macovei drew with Arjun Erigaisi; Vladimir Hamitevici lost to S. L. Narayanan; Iulian Baltag lost to K. Sasikiran).

India 2 (4) bt Estonia (2) 4-0 (D. Gukesh bt Kiik Kalle; R. Praggnanandhaa bt Kirill Chukavin; B. Adhiban bt Aleksandr Volodin; Raunak Sadhwani bt Andrei Shishkov).

Mexico 4 (2) lost to India 3 (4) 1.5-2.5 (Gilberto Hernandez Guerrero drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly; Luis Fernando Ibarra Chami drew with S.P. Sethuraman; Julio Cesar Diaz Rosas drew with Abhijeet Gupta; Uriel Capo Vidal lost to M. Karthikeyan).

USA (4) bt Paraguay (2) 2.5-1.5; Norway (4) bt Uruguay (2) 4-0; Belgium (2) lost to Spain (4) 0.5-3.5; Poland (4) bt Colombia (2) 3-1.

Indian women post wins

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

Much like Fabiano Caruana in the Open section, the spearhead of top seed India 1 K. Humpy could get nothing more than a draw even as one-sided results continued to flow in the women's section of Chess Olympiad.

Saturday saw Humpy craftily stonewall her Argentine rival Marisa Zuriel's designs by locking the centre of the board to earn a draw in 44 moves. In this positional battle, Humpy, rated over 400 points above Marisa, failed to get any advantage.

On the lower boards, it was a different story. Making amends for her first-round marathon that lasted 103 moves, Tania Sachdev needed only 36 moves to taste a second victory. R. Vaishali took a longer route to win after Bhakti Kulkarni gave the desired finish to her game.

Padmini Rout, after resting in the first round, could only get a draw on the second board for India 2. On the rest of the boards, Vantika Agrawal, Soumya Swaminathan and Mary Ann Gomes emerged as comfortable winners.

For India 3, Eesha Karavade and P.V. Nandhidhaa won on the higher boards while the lower ones produced draws.

Third seed Georgia could only manage a 2.5-1.5 victory over Lithuania in the closest match involving a top-10 seed.

Tania... a quick win. • FIDE

The results (second round, with match-points):

India 1 (4) bt Argentina (2) 3.5-0.5 (K. Humpy drew with Marisa Zuriel; R. Vaishali bt Maria Jose Campos; Tania Sachdev bt Anapaola Borda Rodas; Bhakti Kulkarni bt Maria Belen Sarquis).

India 2 (4) bt Latvia (2) 3.5-0.5 (Vantika Agrawal bt Laura Rogule; Padmini Rout drew with Ilze Berzina; Soumya Swaminathan bt Ter-Avetisja; Mary Ann Gomes bt Nellija Maklakova). **Singapore (2) lost to India 3 (4) 1-3** (Anjela Khegay lost to Eesha Karavade; Mei-En Emmanuelle Hng lost to P. V. Nandhidhaa; Liu Yang Hazel drew with Pratyusha Bodda; Fang Kun drew with Vishwa Vasnawala).

Turkey (2) lost to Ukraine (4) 1-3; Georgia (4) bt Lithuania (2) 2.5-1.5; Croatia (2) lost to Poland (4) 0.5-3.5; France (4) bt Egypt (2) 4-0; Finland (2) lost to Azerbaijan (4) 0-4; USA (4) bt Uzbekistan (2) 3-1; Denmark (2) lost to Germany (4) 1-3; Armenia (4) bt Norway (2) 4-0; Belgium (2) lost to Kazakhstan (4) 1-3.

Game of the day

Ekaterina Atalik, a former Russian married to Turkish GM Suat Atalik, used all her experience to tie former World champion Mariya Muzychuk in knots before second seed Ukraine beat Turkey 3-1.

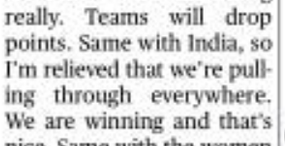
The battle began with English Opening where the Ukrainian responded with the Caro-Kann defence.

Mariya allowed Ekaterina to grab a kingside pawn that allowed her an open file. However, on the very next move, Mariya faltered by going for an exchange of pawns in the centre.

What followed was a masterpiece from the 39-year-old Ekaterina. Keeping her queen and rooks in complete harmony, she activated her bishop to control strategic squares.

A desperate Mariya exchanged the queens but found no way to stop the white rook-pair. Another calculated rook-raid followed from Ekaterina, forcing Mariya to give up on the 44th move.

Indians winning is nice



VISWANATHAN ANAND

A 2.5-1.5 loss to USA is an impressive result for Paraguay. I wouldn't say Fabiano (Caruana) took it easy, but his opponent (Alex Bachmann) simply equalised confidently and seemed to just neutralise them. Some backfiring happened with Levon yesterday and today. In a sense, it doesn't matter nowadays. The fact that Dominguez won and Wesley So drew means that the USA goes through.

I thought Wesley was much better at some point but Neuris Delgado Ramirez drummed up enough counterplay. The main job is that the team wins. Narrow wins are just as good. When you have such a top heavy team, even if things go badly, you're still winning matches. That's the main thing really. Teams will drop points. Same with India, so I'm relieved that we're pulling through everywhere. We are winning and that's nice. Same with the women teams. So it's a 6-0, even if it's not a 4-0 sweep.

R. Vaishali, I think, probably must have missed a win at some point, because she could have done better. I saw Raunak (Sadhwani) deliver a checkmate. That was nice. But everywhere our lead seems large enough to accommodate problems. Good pressure by Sasikiran, though 2.5-0.5 was enough but obviously, every point scored is wonderful when all the top teams are winning.

Magnus Carlsen himself looked at a draw for a long time. I felt his opponent (Georg Meier) had done a great job equalising. But then slowly got into trouble like so many have done before. You know, people are tired at the end of seven hours and dramatic things happen.

Norway has good prospects. Clearly, they are a bit tilted, in the sense that Magnus is their power.

On board one, he is expected to win at least some decisive matches. The rest of the team members have to play well, I think but they're capable of it.

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters pick Mayank

Teams pick notable names in the draft for Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament

CRICKET

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Mayank Agarwal will be part of Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters and Manish Pandey will feature for Gulbarga Mystics in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament, which is set to begin in Mysuru on August 7.

At the player draft held here on Saturday, six sets of a head coach, assistant coach and a selector each– hand-picked by the KSCA –were responsible for assembling the six outfits.

Mysore Warriors, to be coached by P.V. Shashikanth, went first and picked Karun Nair, raising more than a few eyebrows. The batter is not necessarily seen as a T20 specialist and the onus will be on him to prove otherwise.

It also emerged that Abhimanyu Mithun will turn out for Hubli Tigers, K. Gowtham for Shivamogga Strikers and Abhinav Manohar for Mangalore United. Devdutt Padikkal will team-up with Pandey at Gulbarga.

Guiding lights: The coaches of the six teams — T. Nasiruddin, Mansur Ali Khan, P.V. Shashikanth, Stuart Binny, Nikhil Haldipur, and Deepak Chougule — at the player draft ceremony on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Of the 13 players in Pool-A, comprising India and IPL players, 'mystery spinner' Shivil Kaushik and left-arm tweaker K.P. Appanna did not find takers.

Team composition:

Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters-:Mayank Agarwal, Suchith J, Anirudha Joshi,Pradeep T. ,Kranthi Kumar, Chetan LR, Aneesh KV, Kumar LR, Rakshith S, Rishi Bopanna, Santok Singh, Suraj Ahuja (WK), P Gurbax Arya, Lochan Gowda, Ronit More, Shaun Tristan Joseph, Kush Marate, Tanay Walmik.
Coach:T.Nasiruddin; **Asst coach**: K.B.Pavan; **Selector**: Ragotham Navli.

Hubli Tigers: Abhimanyu Mithun, Luvnith Sisodia, V.Koushik, Liyan Khan, M.G.Naveen; Anand Doddamani, B.U.Shivkumar, Tushar Singh, Akshan Rao, Zahoor Farooqi, Rohan Naveen, Saurav Srivastav, Sagar Solanki, Gowtham Sagar, Roshan Ashwathiah, Rahul Singh Rawat, Shishir Bhawane, Sharan Goud.
Coach: Deepak Chougule; **Asst coach**: Raju Bhatkal; **Selector**: Anand Katti.

Gulbarga Mystics: Manish Pandey, Devdutt Padikkal,C.A. Karthik, Manoj Bhandage, Vidwath Kaverappa, Kruthik Krishna, Abhilash Shetty, Kushaal M.Wadhwani, Pranav Bhatia,K.L.Shrijith, Ritesh Bhatkal ,B.A.Mohit,Rohan Patil, Dhanush Gowda, Mohammed Aqib Jawad, Shreesha Achar, Jeshwanth Acharya, Aaron Christie.
Coach:Mansur Ali Khan; **Asst. coach**: Rajashekar Shanbal; **Selector**: V.Santosh.

Mangalore United: Abhinav Manohar, R.Samarth,V.Vyshak, Amit Verma, M.Venkatesh, Aneeshwar Gautam, Sujay Sateri, A.C.Rohith Kumar, Macneil Noronha, H.S.Sharath, K.Shashi Kumar,S.J.Nikin Jose, Raghuveer Pavalur ,S.Amogh, N.A. .Chinmay, Aditya Somanna, Yashovardhan Parantap, Dheeraj J.Gowda.
Coach: Stuart Binny; **Asst coach**: C. Raghavendra; **Selector**: M.V.Prasanth.

Shivamogga Strikers: K.Gowtham, K.C.Cariappa, Rohan Kadam, K.V.Siddharth, M.B.Darshan, Stalin Hoover, D. Avinash, R.Smaran, B.R.Sharath,Rajvir Wadhwa, Rajendra Danganavar, Utham Aiyappa,S. Chaitanya B. M.Shreyas, K.S.Devaiah, Vinay Sagar, S.P.Shreyas, S.Punith.
Coach: Nikhil Haldipur; **Asst coach**: Aditya Sagar; **Selector**: A.R.Mahesh.

Mysore Warriors: Karun Nair, Shreyas Gopal, Shubhang Hegde, Pavan Deshpande, Vidyadhar Patil, Nihal Ullal, Prateek Jain, Lochan Appanna, G.S.Chiranjeevi,Naga Bharath, Bharath Duri,S.Shivraj, Monish Reddy,T.N.Varun Rao, Rahul Prasanna, Nitin Bhille, Aditya Goyal, Abhishek Ahlawat.
Coach:P.V.Shashikanth; **Asst. coach**: S.L.Akshay; **Selector**: K.L.Ashwath.

Russell takes pole with spectacular last-gasp lap

Mercedes driver outpaces the Ferraris of Sainz and Leclerc

HUNGARIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUDAPEST

George Russell of Mercedes beat both Ferraris and World champion Max Verstappen to claim his maiden pole position with a spectacular last-gasp lap in Saturday's qualifying for the Hungarian Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Briton clocked a best lap in one minute and 17.377 seconds to outpace Carlos Sainz in the leading Ferrari by 0.044 seconds. Charles Leclerc was third for Ferrari, one-tenth adrift.

"Incredible! Amazing. You did it," screamed Russell on his team radio. "You beauty. No points for Saturday, boys... Let's go tomorrow."

Lando Norris grabbed fourth for McLaren ahead of the two Alpines of last year's winner Esteban Ocon and two-time champion Fernando Alonso, who turned 41 on Friday.

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton aborted his final flying lap in his Mercedes due to a Drag Reduction System (DRS) failure and qualified seventh ahead of former teammate Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo.

Daniel Ricciardo of McLaren was ninth and Red Bull's series leader and world champion Verstappen 10th after suffering power failure problems and failing to record a competitive lap time.

Finally...Russell got a chance to start the main race in his 73rd Grand Prix. • REUTERS

First in a year

Russell's first pole in his 73rd Grand Prix was also Mercedes's first since last year's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and signalled that the team may finally have overcome its struggles with the new 'ground effect' aerodynamic regulations this season.

The starting grid: Front row: George Russell (Mercedes), Carlos Sainz (Ferrari); **second row:** Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), Lando Norris (McLaren); **third row:** Esteban Ocon (Alpine), Fernando Alonso (Alpine); **fourth row:** Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes), Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo); **fifth row:** Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren), Max Verstappen (Red Bull).

Sixth row: Sergio Perez (Red Bull), Guanyu Zhou (Alfa Romeo); **seventh row:** Kevin Magnussen (Haas), Lance Stroll (Aston Martin); **eighth row:** Mick Schumacher (Haas), Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); **ninth row:** Alex Albon (Williams), Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin); **tenth row:** Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri), Nicholas Latifi (Williams).

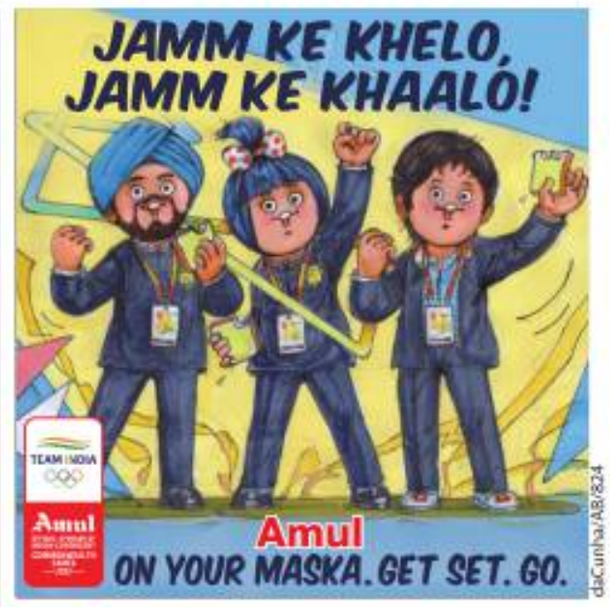
Runaway win for the Kiwis

ASSOCIATED PRESS
EDINBURGH

New Zealand posted its highest-ever Twenty20 International score of 254 for five and beat Scotland by 102 runs to win the two-match series 2-0.

The scores: New Zealand 254/5 in 20 overs (Dane Cleaver 28, Mark Chapman 83, Daryl Mitchell 31, Michael Bracewell 61, James Neesham 28) bt Scotland152/9 in 20 overs (Chris Greaves 37).

Toss: New Zealand; **MoM:** Chapman; *New Zealand won by 102 runs to win two-match series 2-0.*



daCunha/AS/824

Purav-Divij duo loses in semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Top seeds Purav Raja and Divij Sharan lost 6-3, 3-6, [10-8] to Kweisi Kenyatte & Cooper Williams in $25,000 ITF men's tennis doubles semifinals in Edwardsville, USA.

In the $15,000 event in Colombo, Manish won the doubles title with Parikshit Somani, while Prajwal Dev made the final.

The results: $25,000 ITF, Edwardsville, US: Doubles: Semi-finals: Kweisi Kenyatte & Cooper Williams (US) bt Purav Raja & Divij Sharan 6-3, 3-6, [10-8]; **Quarterfinals:** Purav & Divij bt George Goldhoff & Mac Kiger (US) 6-0, 4-6, [10-7].

$15,000 ITF, Colombo: Semi-finals: S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 6-4; Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Doubles: Final: Parikshit Somani & Manish bt Quentin Folliot (Fra) & Vanshelboim 7-6(6), 7-5.

$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Doubles: Semifinals: Ken Cavrak & Chase Ferguson (Aus) bt Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha 3-6, 6-3, [10-4].

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Sir Syed Cricketers posts win

BENGALURU: B.A. Mohith top-scored with an unbeaten 62 as Sir Syed Cricketers defeated Friends Union CC (I) by three wickets to enter the semifinals of the KSCA T20 tournament.

The scores (quarterfinals): Cambridge 163/8 in 20 overs (L.R. Chethana 43, Shubhang Hegde 45, Zahoor Faroqui 3/30) bt Social Cricketers 91 in 17.4 overs (Ajay Gouda 29, S. Amogh 3/10).

Rajajinagar Cricketers 160/8 in 20 overs (Nihal Ullal 28, Nitin Bhille 44, Abhilash Shetty 3/25, Shreyas Gopal 3/37) lost to Swastic Union (1) 161/7 in 20 overs (R. Samarth 34, S. Rakshith 52 n.o., N.A. Chinmay 29, Dhuri 3/15).

Friends Union (1) 164/6 in 20 overs (B.U. Shivakumar 72, G.S. Chiranjeevi 25, Prajwal Pavan 26, L.R. Kumar 3/19) lost to Sir Syed Cricketers 167/3 in 18.4 overs (A. Rohan Patil 32, Shrikara 44, B.A. Mohith 62 n.o.).

Vultures 185/5 in 20 overs (Karun Nair 27, Anirudha A. Joshi 32, Kruthik Krishna 44 n.o., Abhimanyu Mithun 35 n.o.) bt Friends Union (2) 175/9 in 20 overs (Rajendra S. Danganavar 53, Aarush Mehrotra 40 n.o.).

Big win for Chinmaya Vidyalaya-A

Chinmaya Vidyalaya-A thrashed KV NAL II-I in a girls match of the D.S. Murthy & Radha Murthy Memorial five-a-side hockey tournament on Saturday.

Other results: Boys: Rising Star HC 6 bt Samant Sports Academy 5; Naveen HC-B 12 bt Germanite HA 1; Southern Alpha SA 5 bt Coorg Direwolves HC-B 3; Sunday Boys-A 5 bt Ideal SA 1; Germanite HA 5 drew with Ideal Sports Academy 5.

Rising Star HC 7 bt Coorg Direwolves HC 4; Bangalore United HC-A 6 bt Sunday Boys-B 3; Naveen HC-B 6 bt Bangalore United HC-A 5.

Ayush and Sahana triumph

MYSURU: K. Ayush and H. Sahana won the youth boys and girls singles titles respectively in the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament here on Saturday.

The results (final): Boys: K. Ayush bt Abhinav K Murthy 12-10, 11-6, 3-11, 11-13, 11-5, 9-11, 11-7; **Girls:** H.Sahana bt Trupti Purohit 11-3, 11-9, 10-12, 11-6, 13-11.

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Bone Health

Made with amla, rosehip and pumpkin seed extracts has antioxidant, immunity booster & anti-aging properties and is beneficial for joints
Vitamin C and Zinc

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